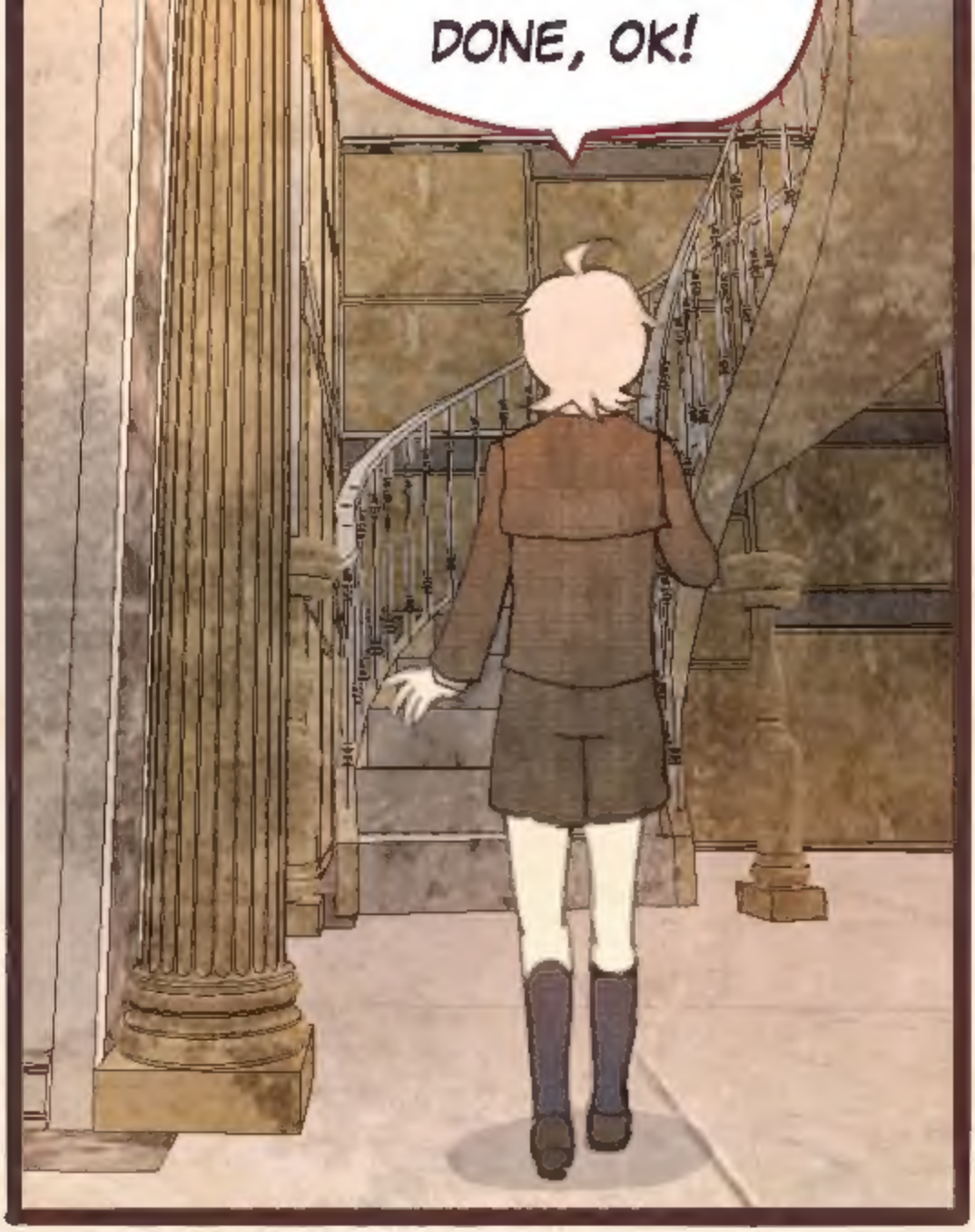
WE'RE HOME!!

UM, YOU MIND IF I GO CHANGE

FIRST?
NO WORRIES, THE MAIDS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE SHOPPING BAGS!

BRING DOWN THE COSTUME ONCE YOU'RE


DONE, OK!

SNATCH!

FINALLY, I'M OUT OF THAT HIDEOUS GET-UP!

IT'S A BIT DIRTY...I'LL WASH IT FOR LUCIUS.

LUCIUS,
DO YOU HAVE ANY
DIRTY CLOTHES THAT
NEED WASHING?

I CAN WASH THEM AND THE COSTUME ALL AT ONCE...

A ATTACK?!

SHE'S NOT BREATHING!

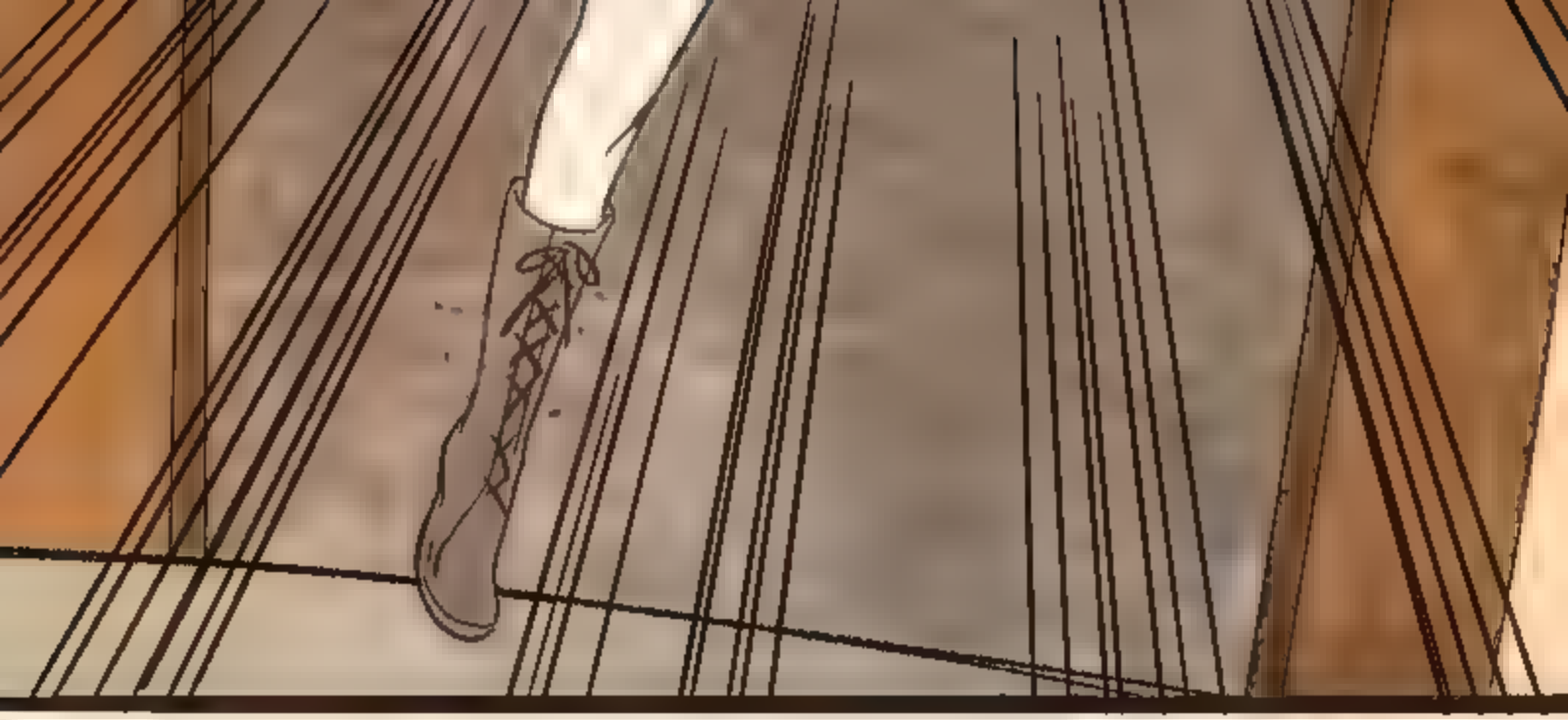
THIS CUT...

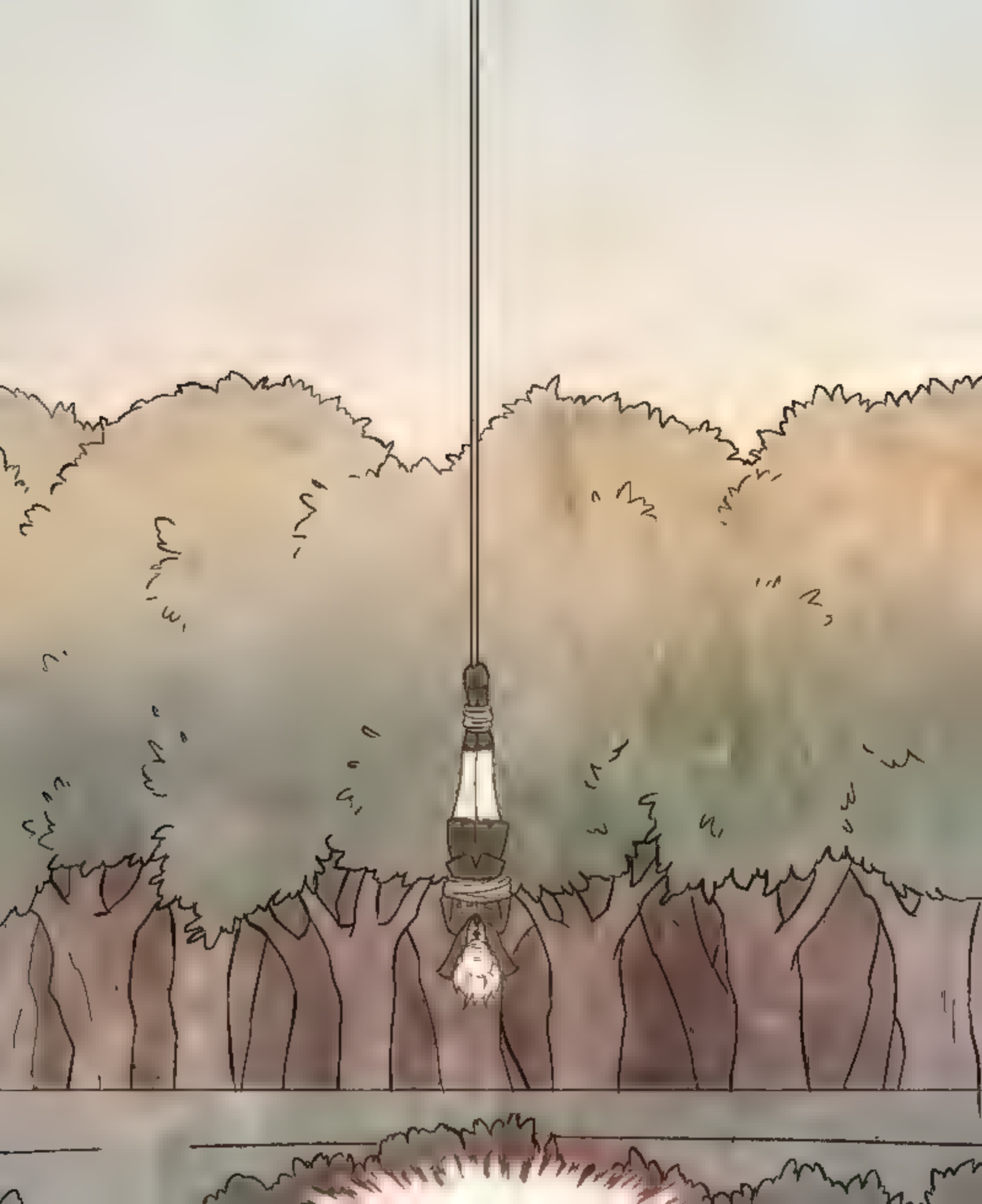
THAT WAS MADE BY YUTA'S BLADE!
THE WOUND

EDGES ARE TOO PRISTINE!

IT LEADS TO THE BACK YARD--

LUCIUS?!!

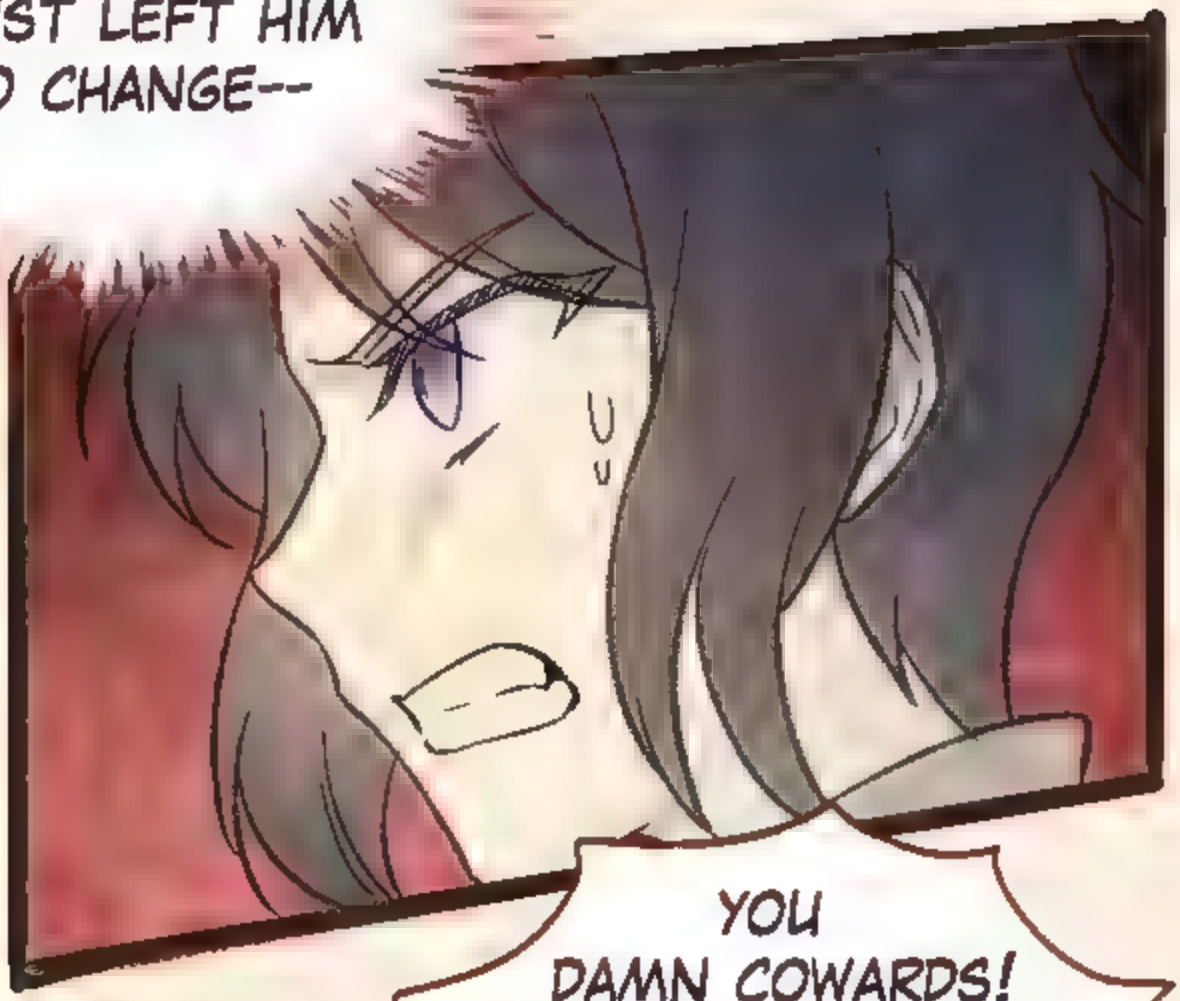




LUCIUS!!

HUMMMM--
HAUUUMM--
DAMN IT!

I JUST LEFT HIM TO CHANGE--

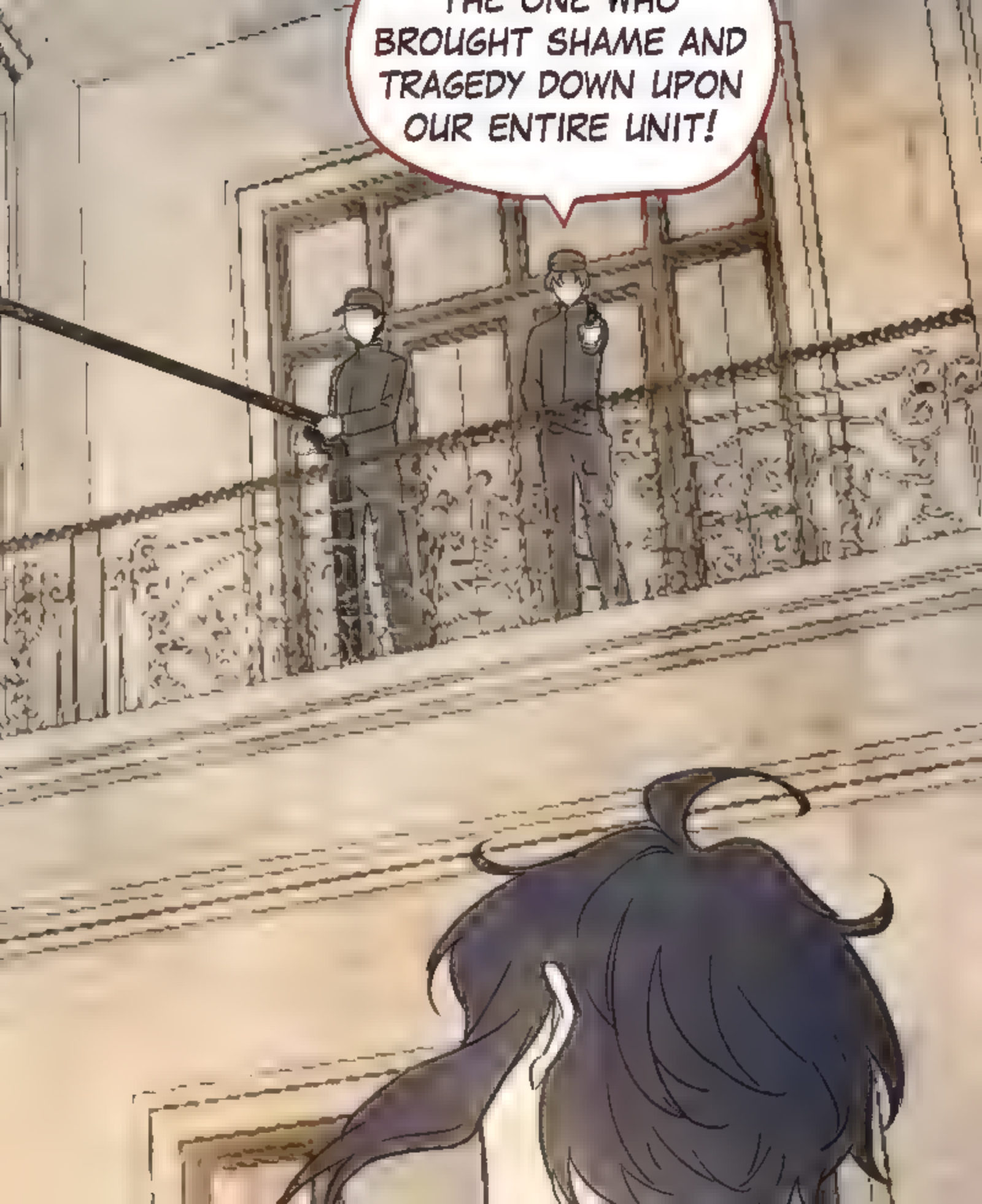


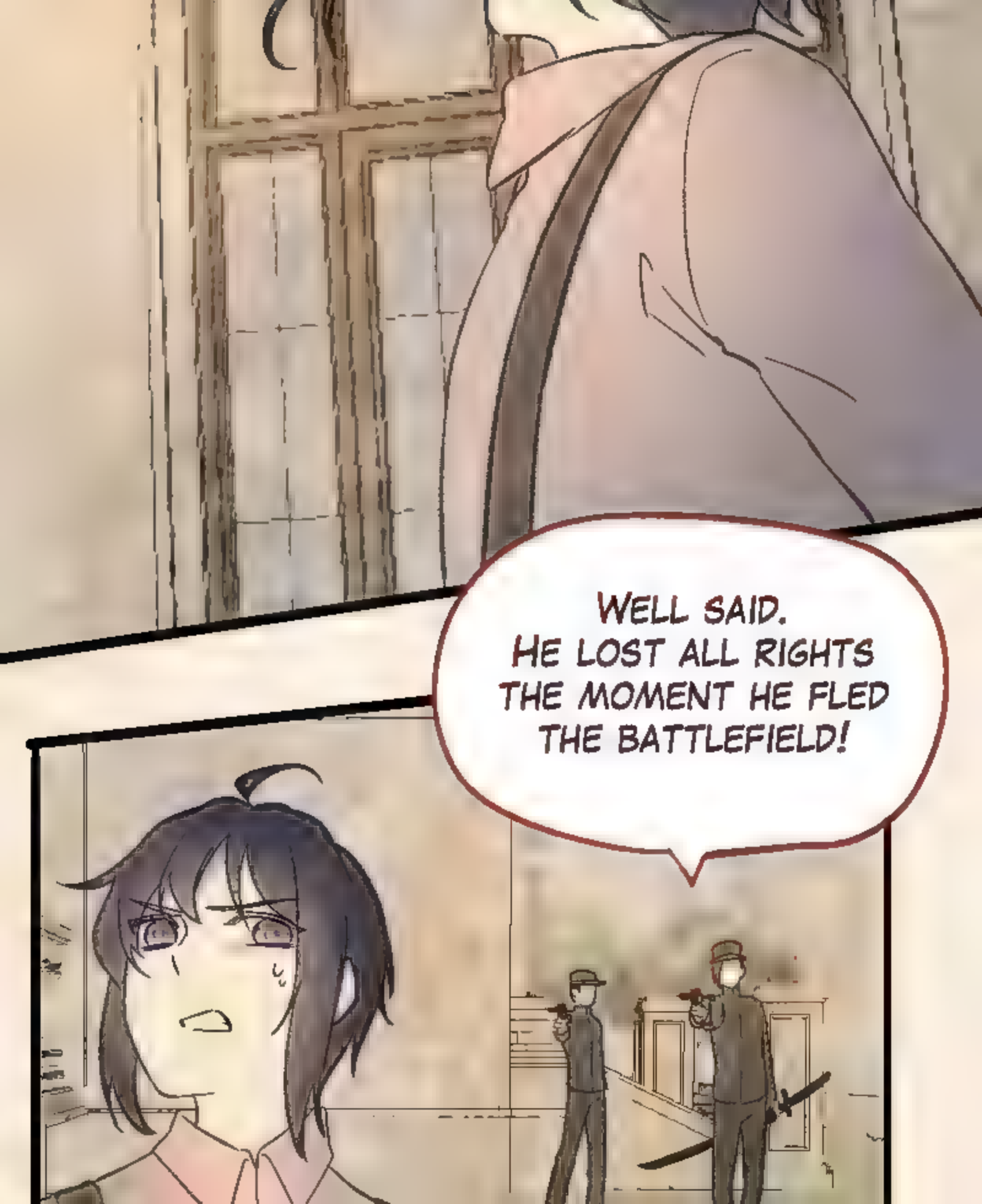
YOU DAMN COWARDS! ATTACKING THE WEAK AND TAKING CAPTIVES DOESN'T MAKE YOU A TRUE WARRIOR!

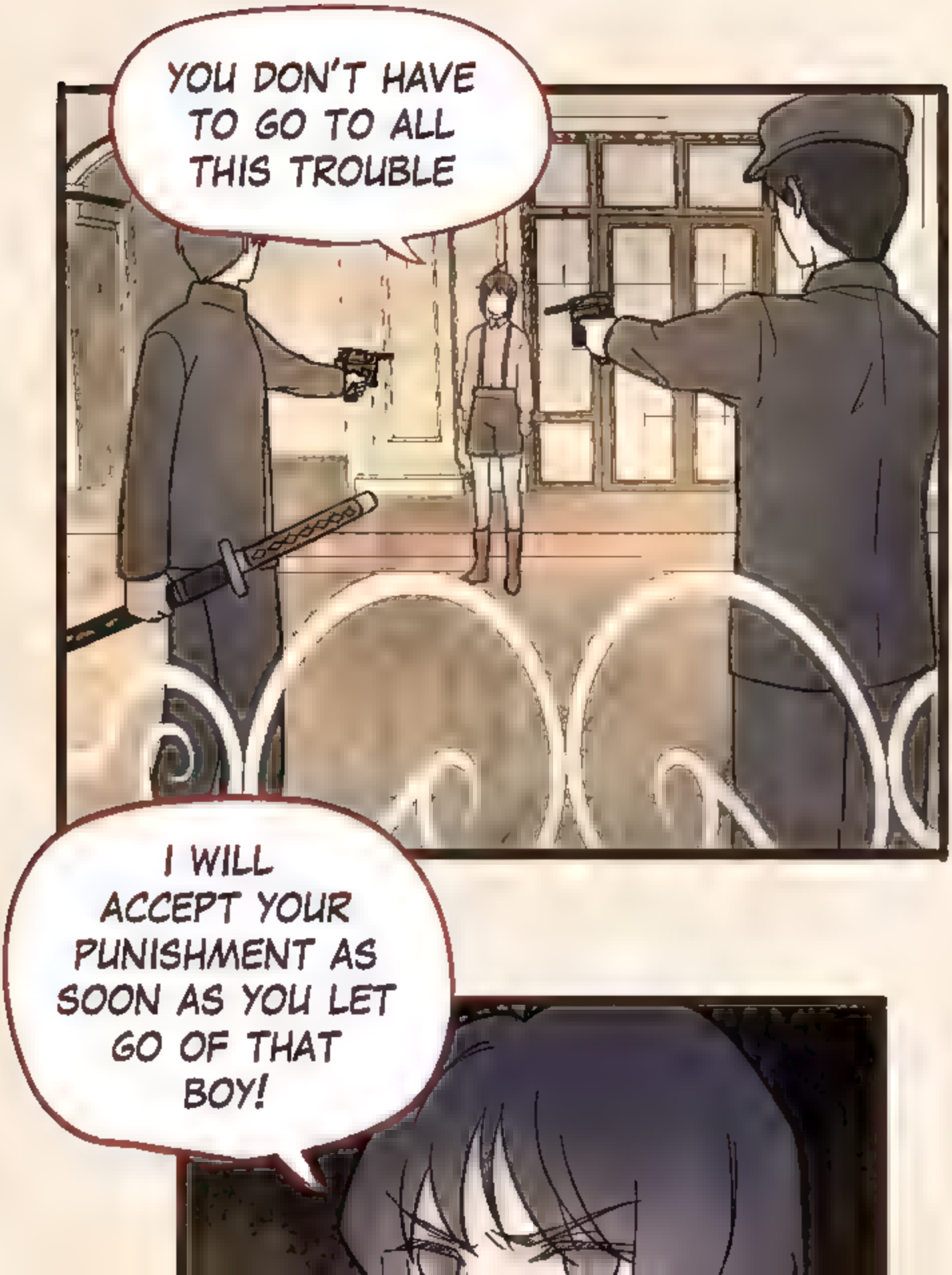
SHOW YOURSELVES IF YOU STILL CARE FOR THE PRIDE OF THE SUN EMPIRE!

I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO A DESERTER TALK ABOUT GUTS AND PRIDE.

YOU ARE

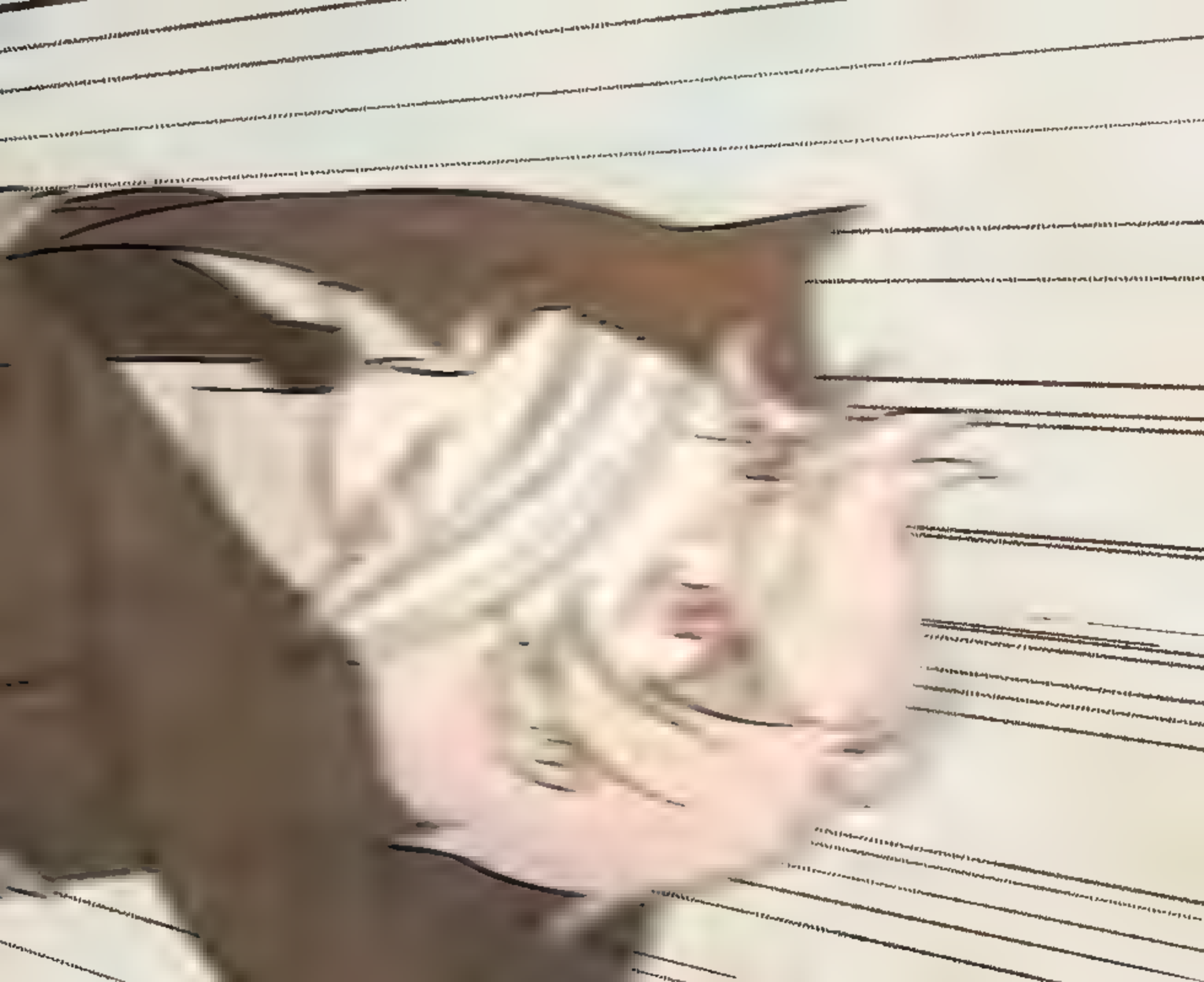

THE ONE WHO BROUGHT SHAME AND TRAGEDY DOWN UPON OUR ENTIRE UNIT!

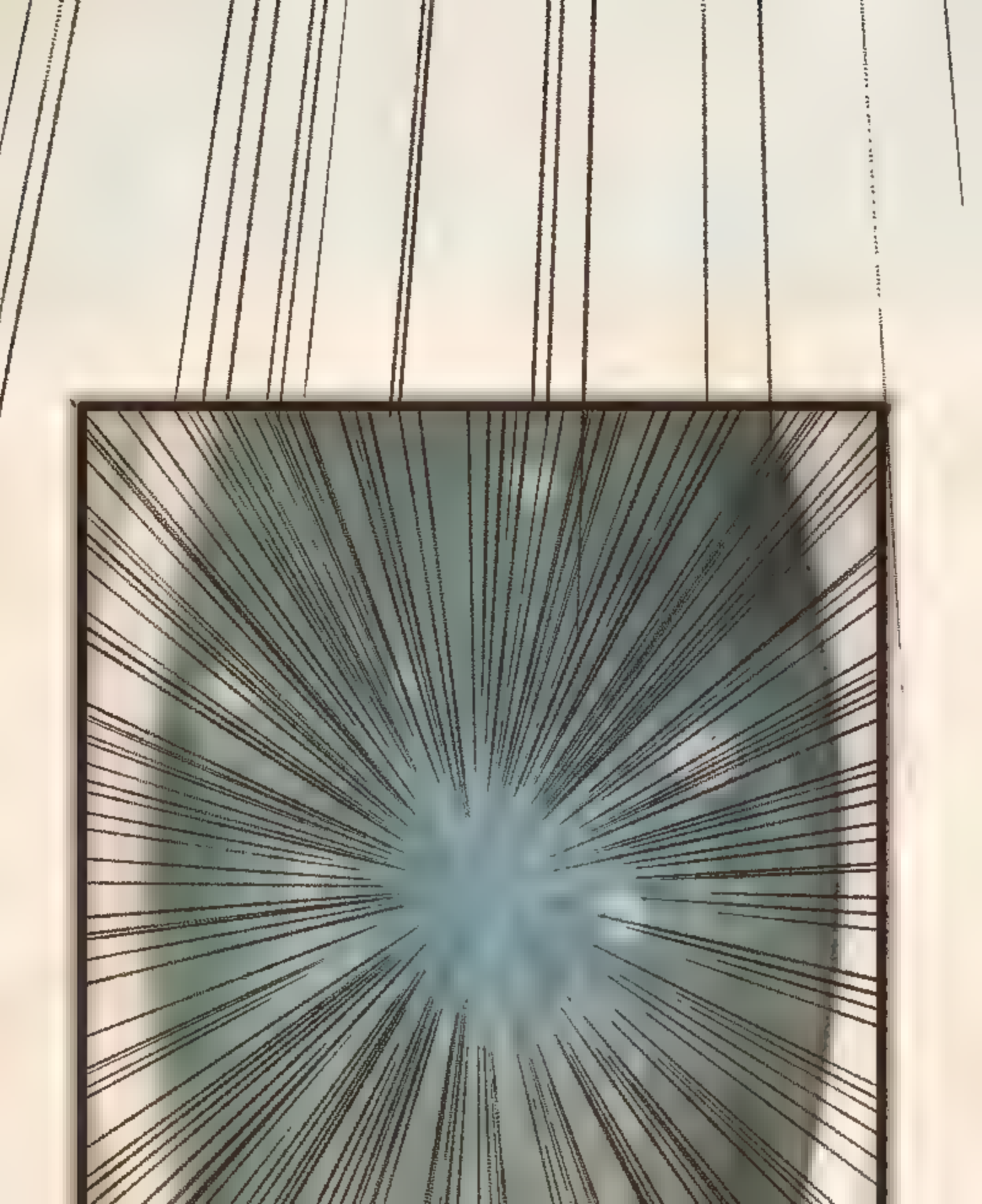

WELL SAID.
HE LOST ALL RIGHTS
THE MOMENT HE FLED
THE BATTLEFIELD!

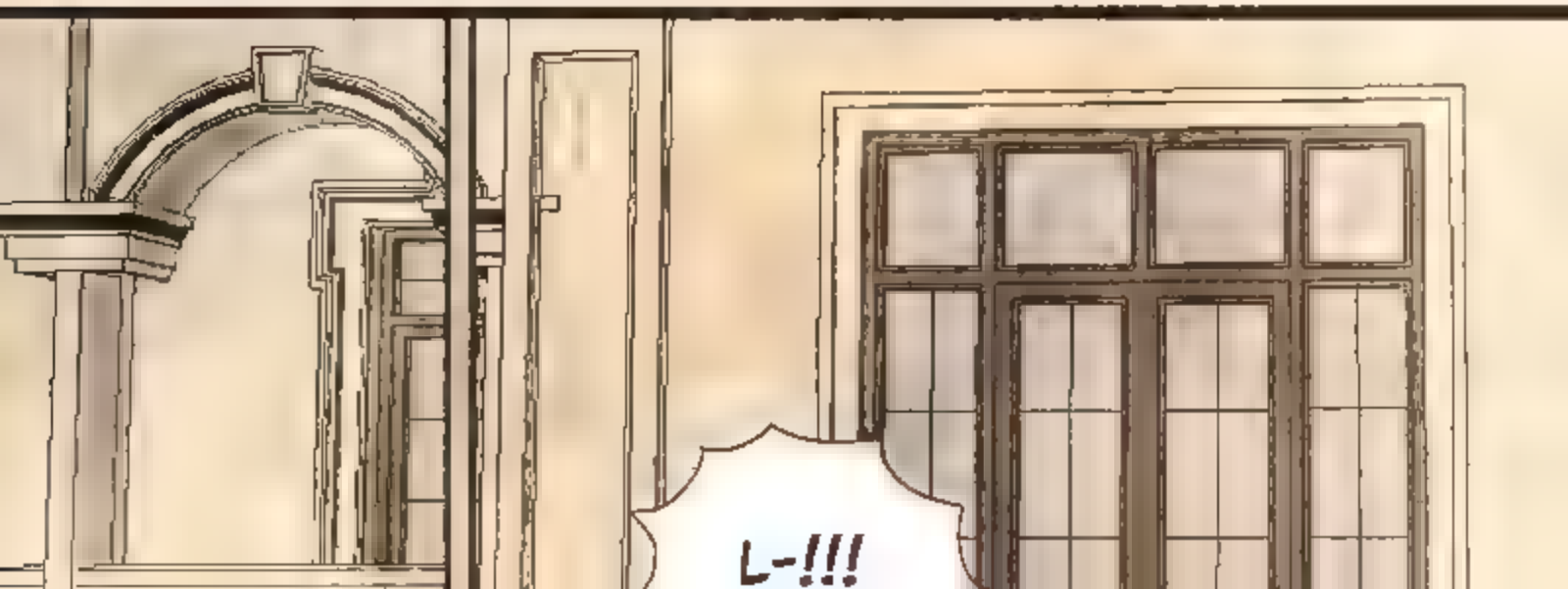

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE
I WILL ACCEPT YOUR PUNISHMENT AS SOON AS YOU LET GO OF THAT BOY!

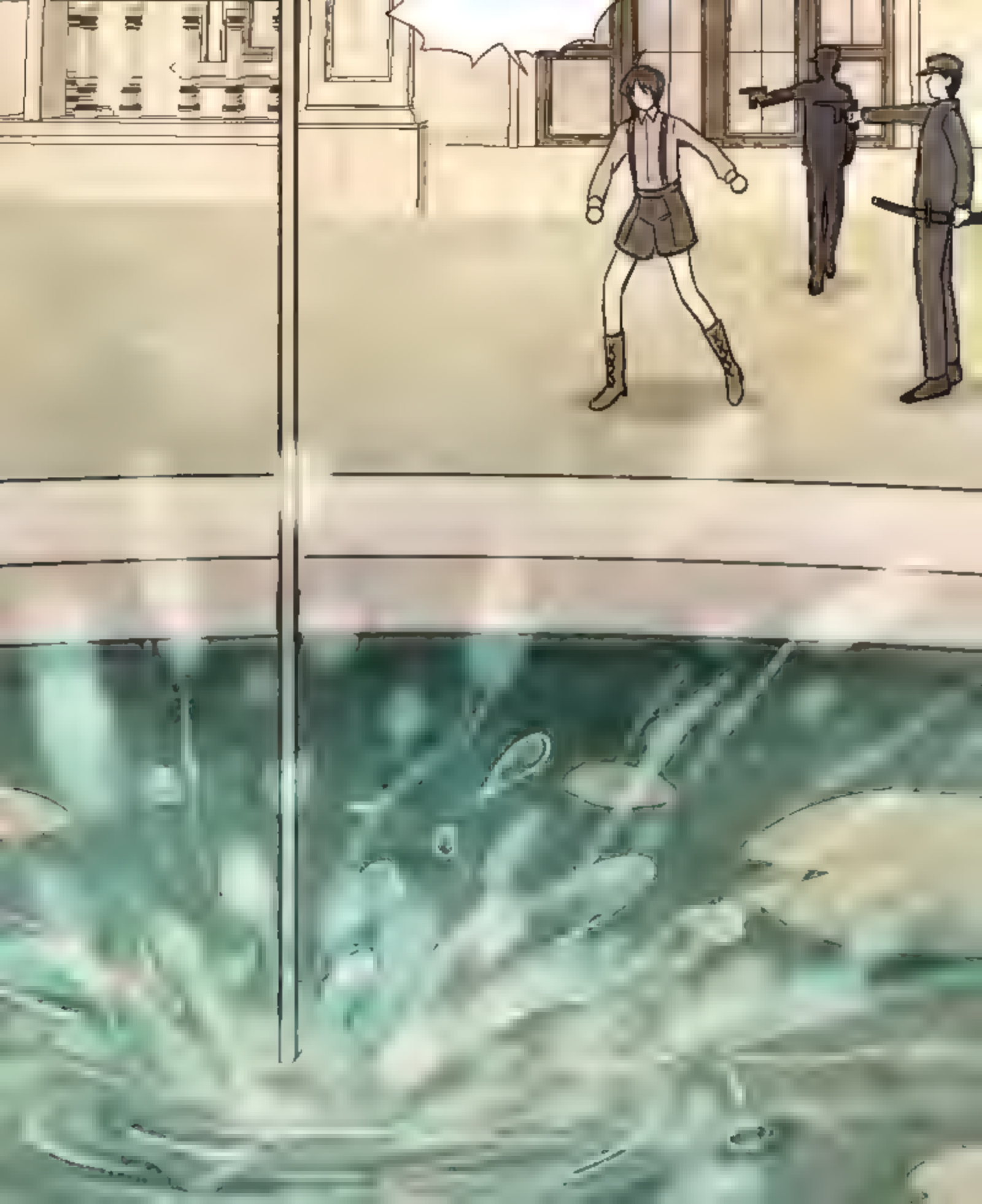
YOU THINK THAT WORTHLESS LIFE OF YOURS IS ENOUGH TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS?
YOUR OVERCONFIDENCE IS AS DISGUSTING

AS EVER!
SHOW HIM WHAT HE'S REALLY WORTH!
YES, SIR!

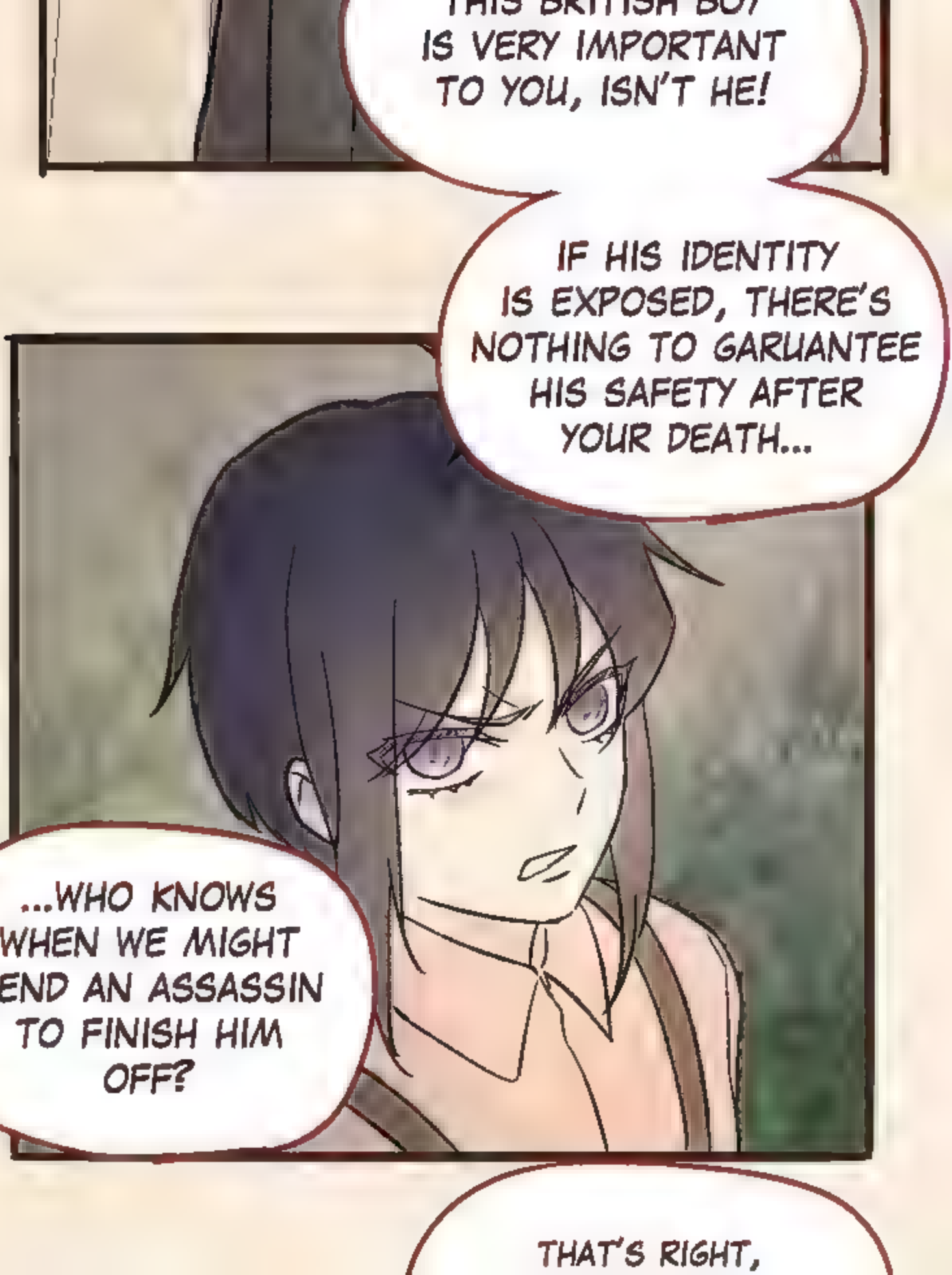


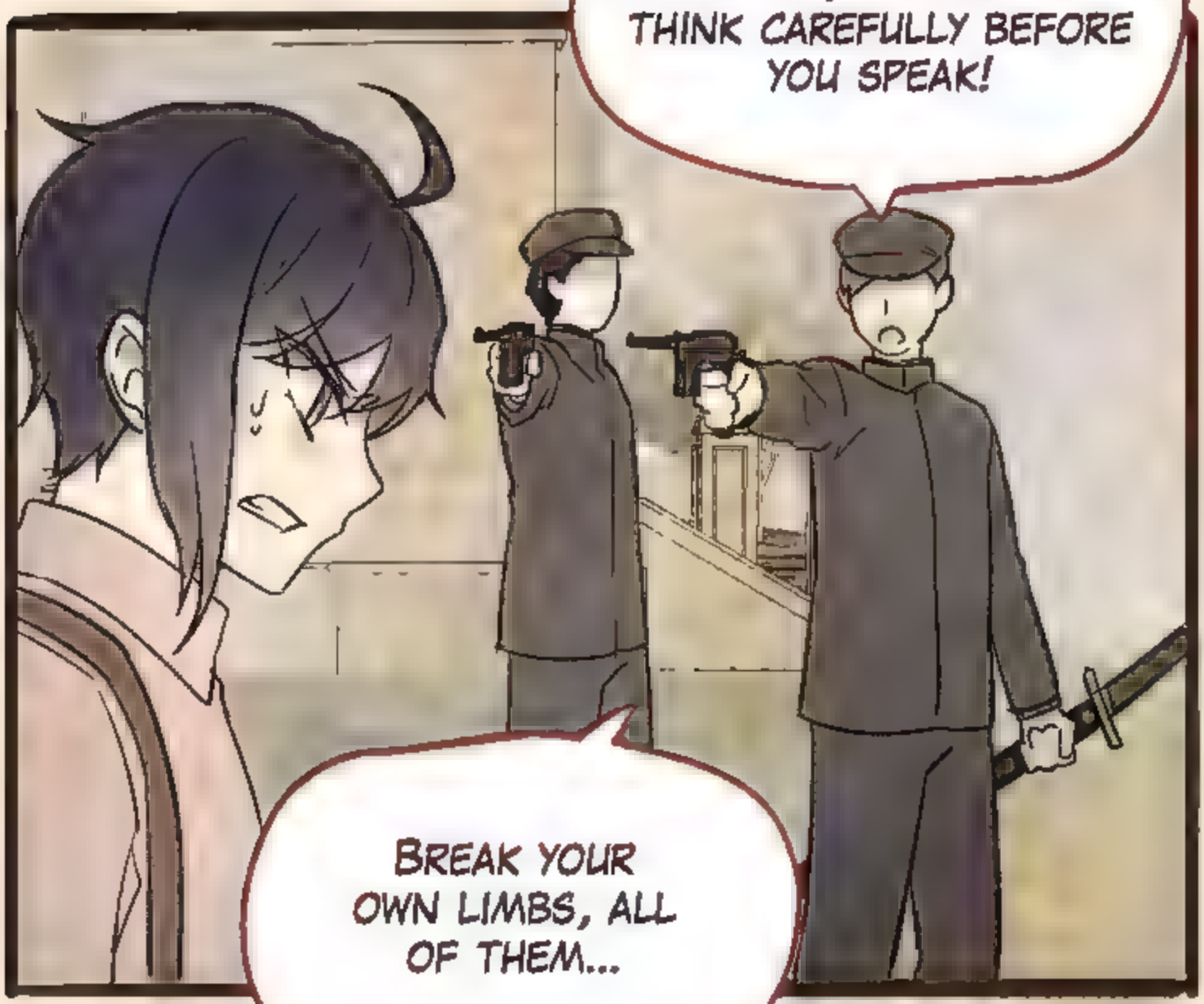



لا-!!!



I SEE, YOU ARE AFRAID TO CALL OUT HIS NAME IN FRONT OF US.
THIS BRITISH BOY


THIS BRITISH BOY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU, ISN'T HE!
IF HIS IDENTITY IS EXPOSED, THERE'S NOTHING TO GARUANTEE HIS SAFETY AFTER YOUR DEATH...
...WHO KNOWS WHEN WE MIGHT SEND AN ASSASSIN TO FINISH HIM OFF?
THAT'S RIGHT,

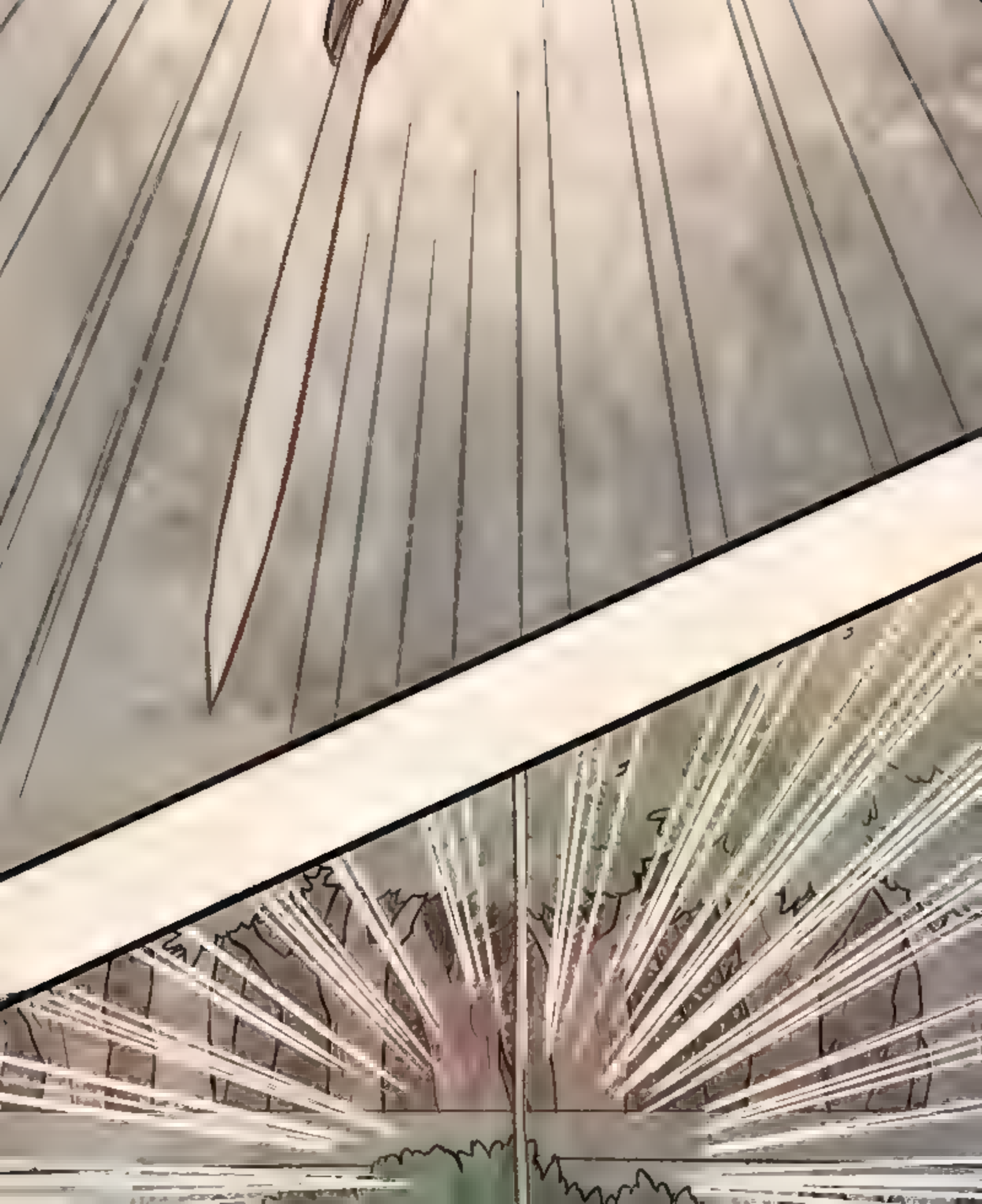

HAYATE, YOU BETTER THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU SPEAK!
BREAK YOUR OWN LIMBS, ALL OF THEM...
...AND WE'LL LET YOUR LITTLE BRITISH BOY GO.

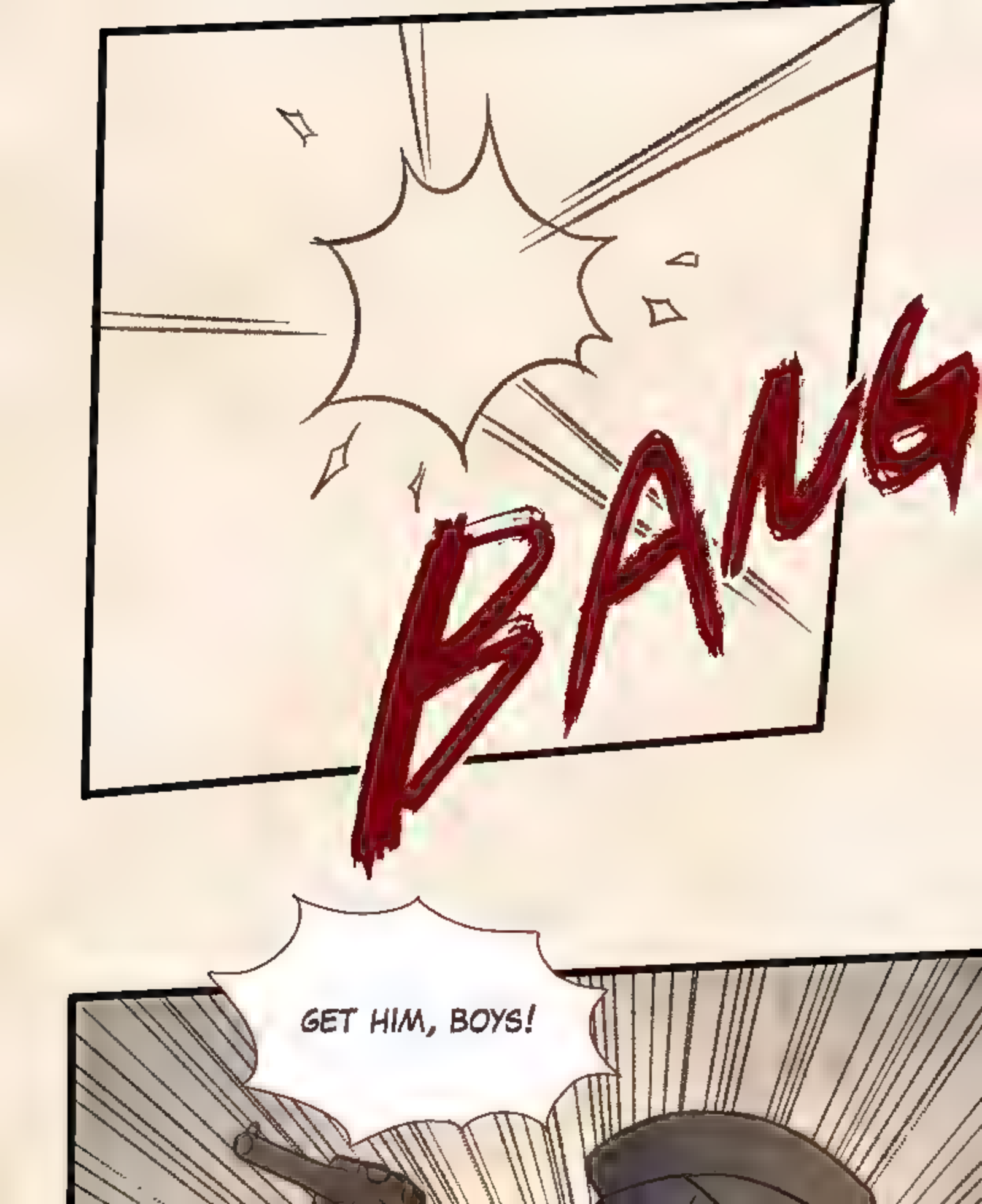
I SEE,
THEY WANT TO
TAKE ME BACK
TO CAMP.

THEY MUST NEED ME FOR ANOTHER SUICIDE MISSION.

BULLSHIT-- AS IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY LOOK INTO HIM AND HIS FAMILY.
OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE!
HOLD YOUR BREATH! JUST THREE MINUTES, LUCIUS -- THAT'S

ALL I NEED!




BAM
GET HIM, BOYS!

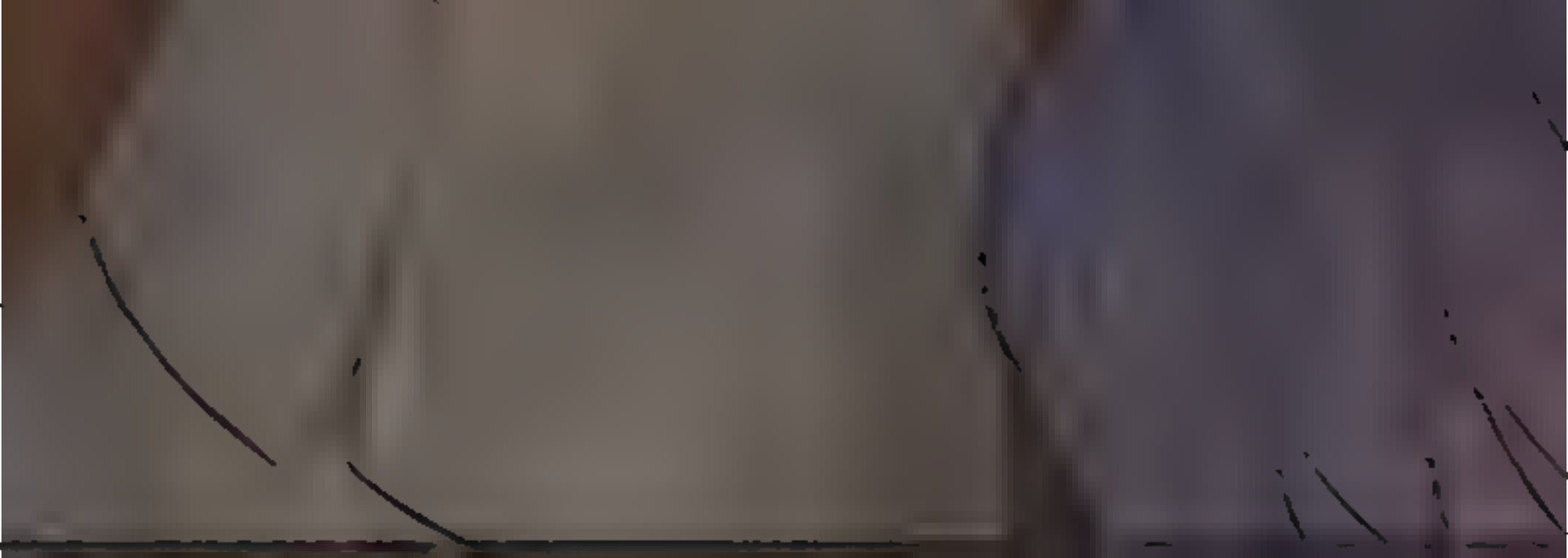
CRACK

AC

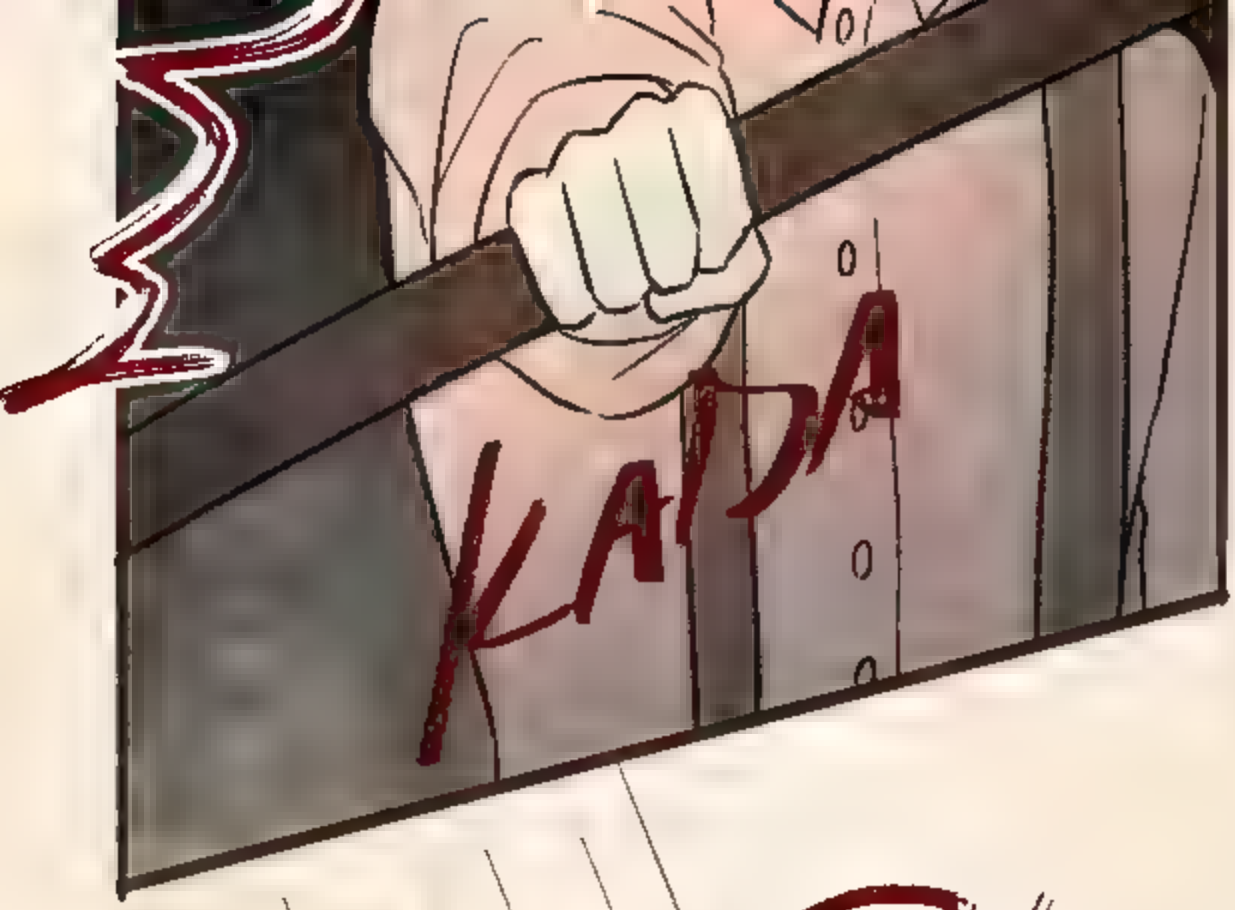
AGH-
SHOOT HIM DOWN!!

RAMA

BAK



SYUU
SYUU

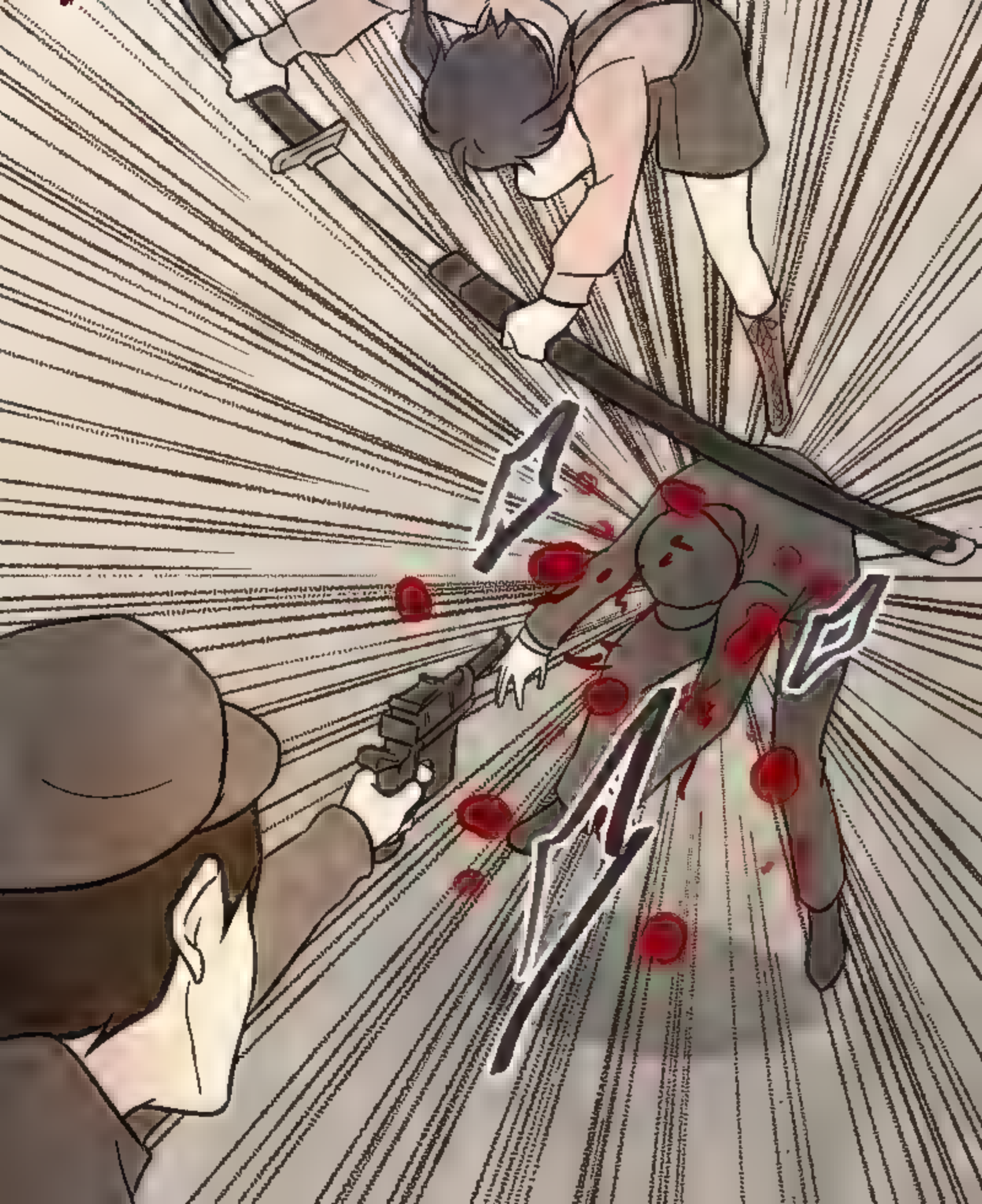

KADA

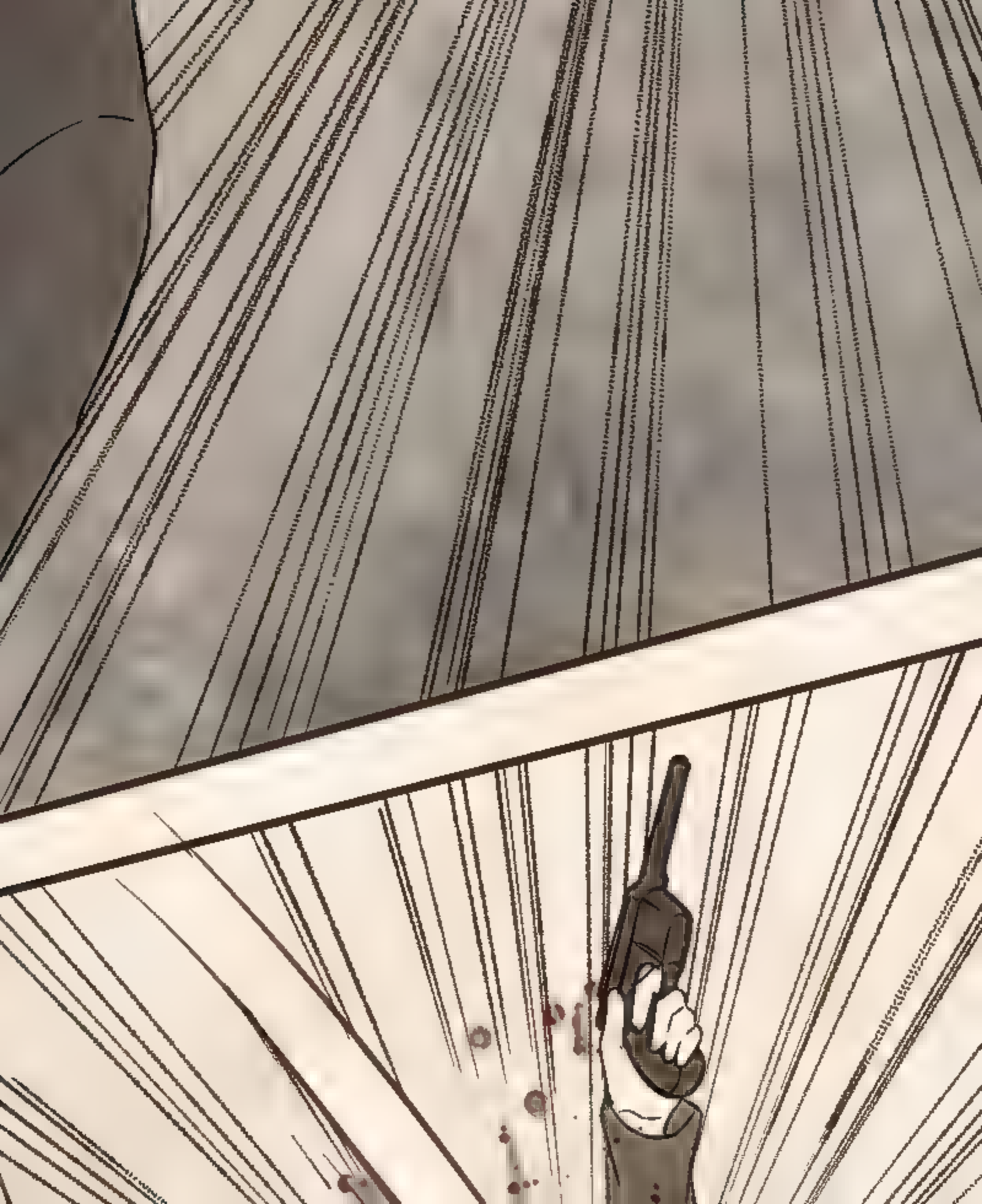
KLAK

DAMN YOU, HAYATE!!
WHOOSH

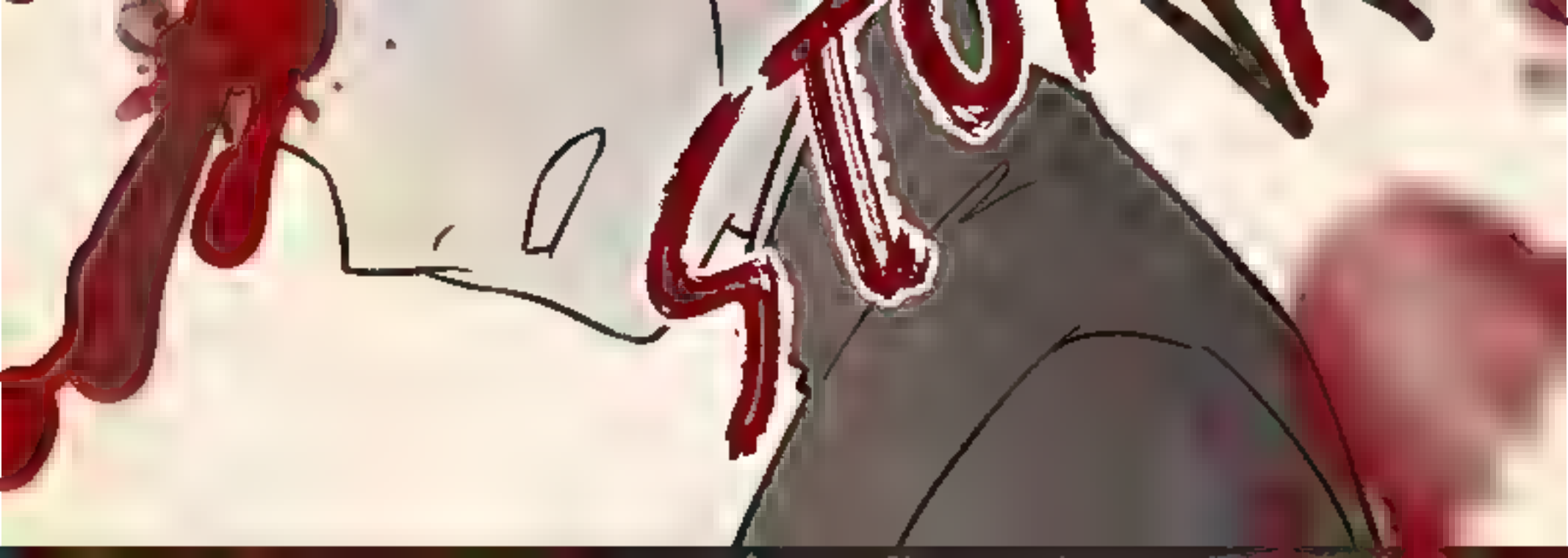
BLOOD

SLICE!
LEAP!



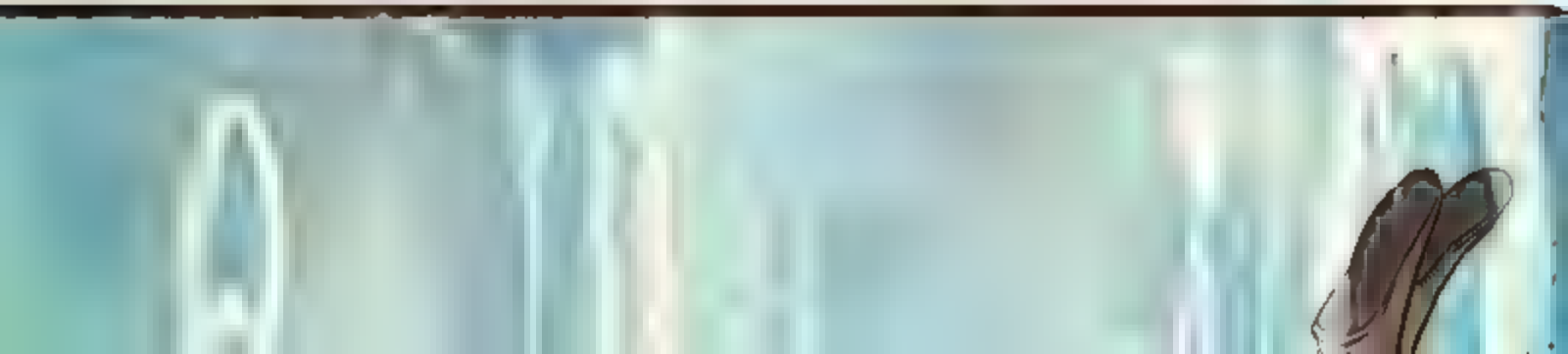


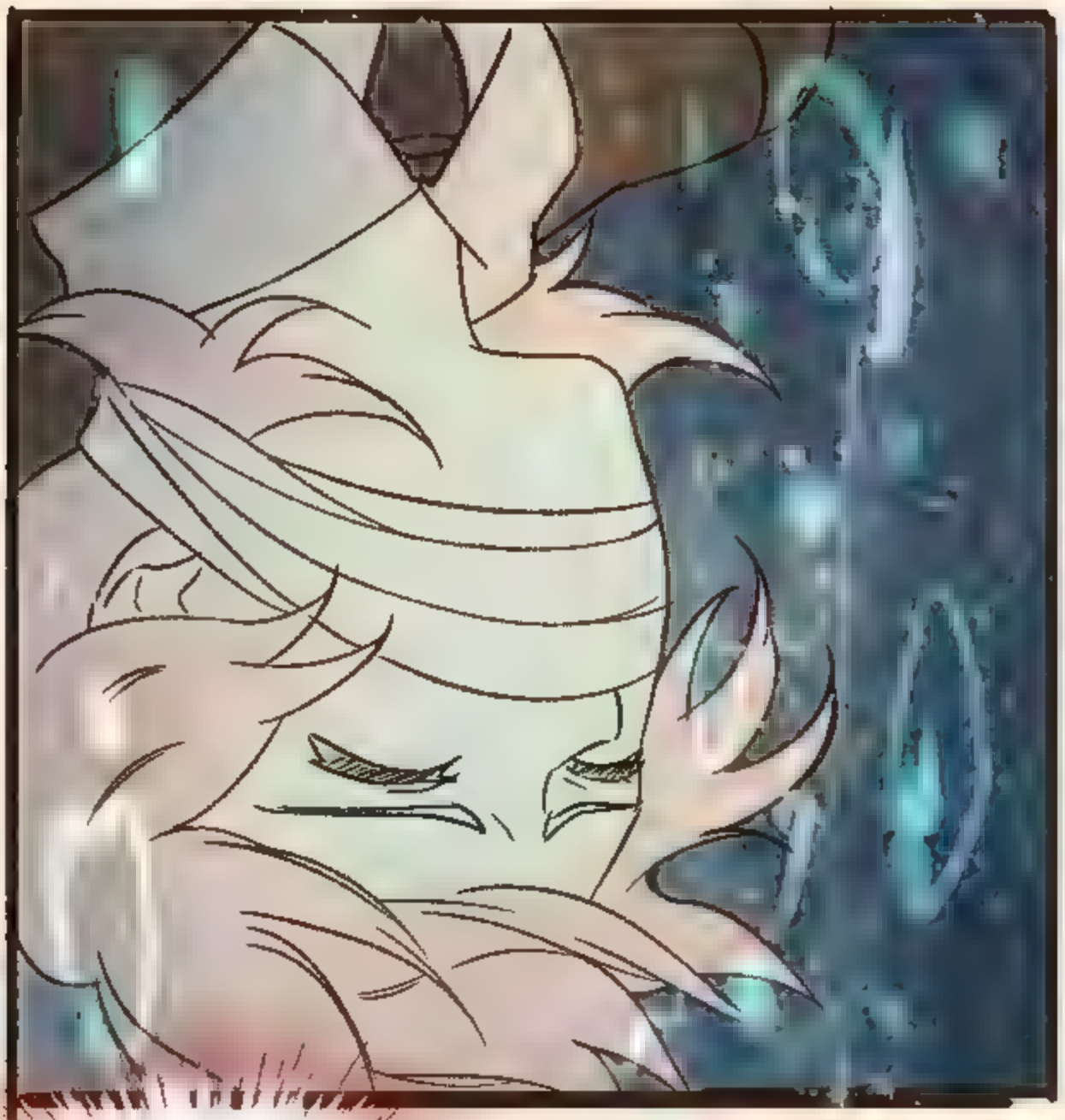
SLASH



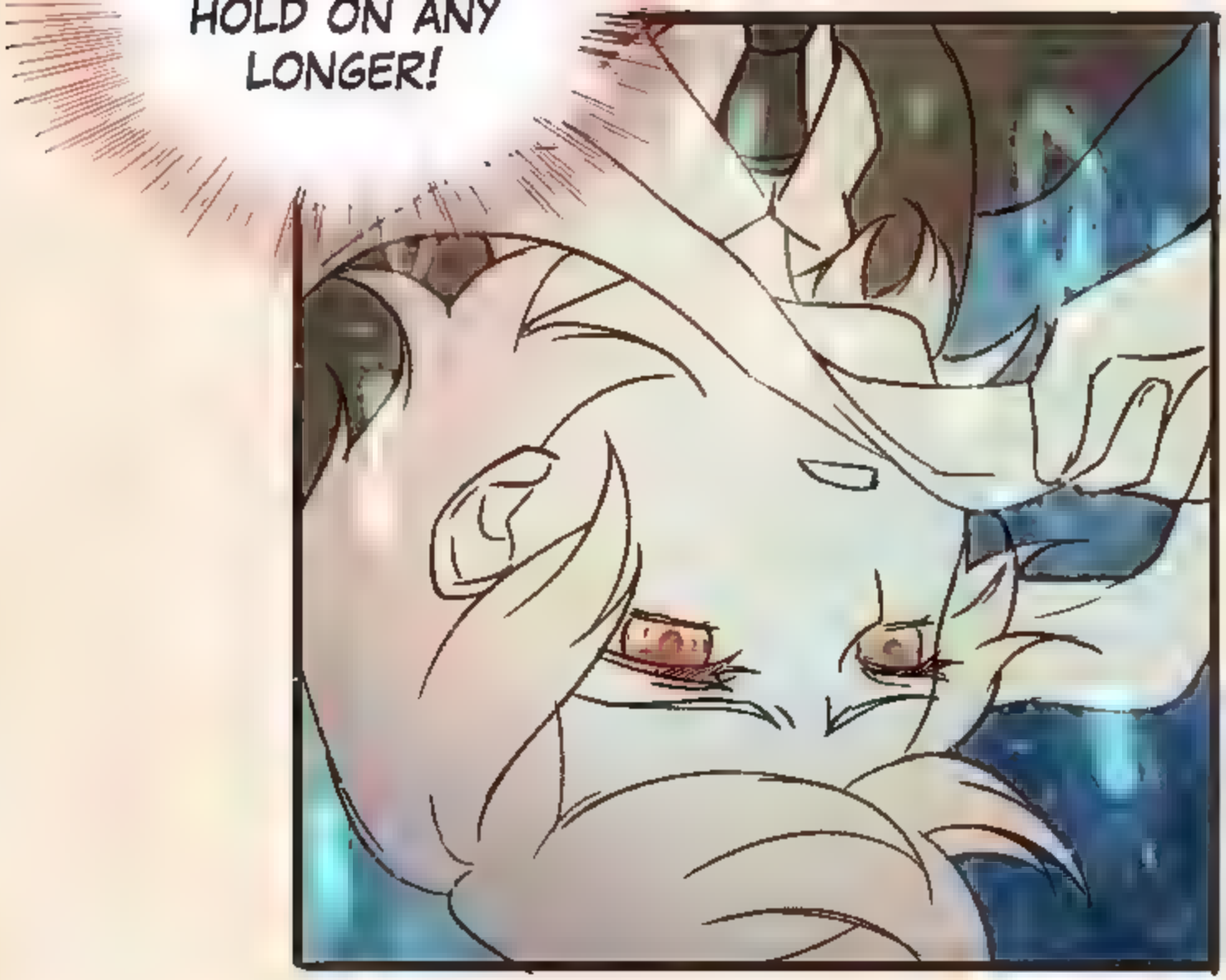
CUT

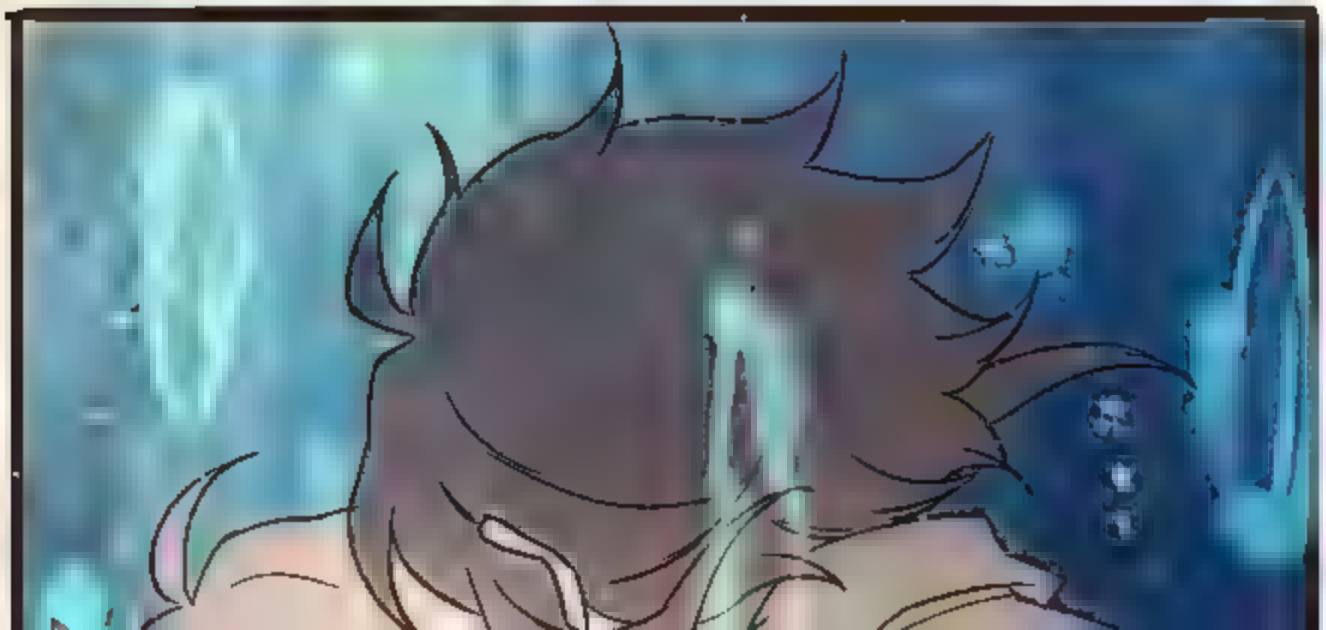
SPLASH!





I CAN'T

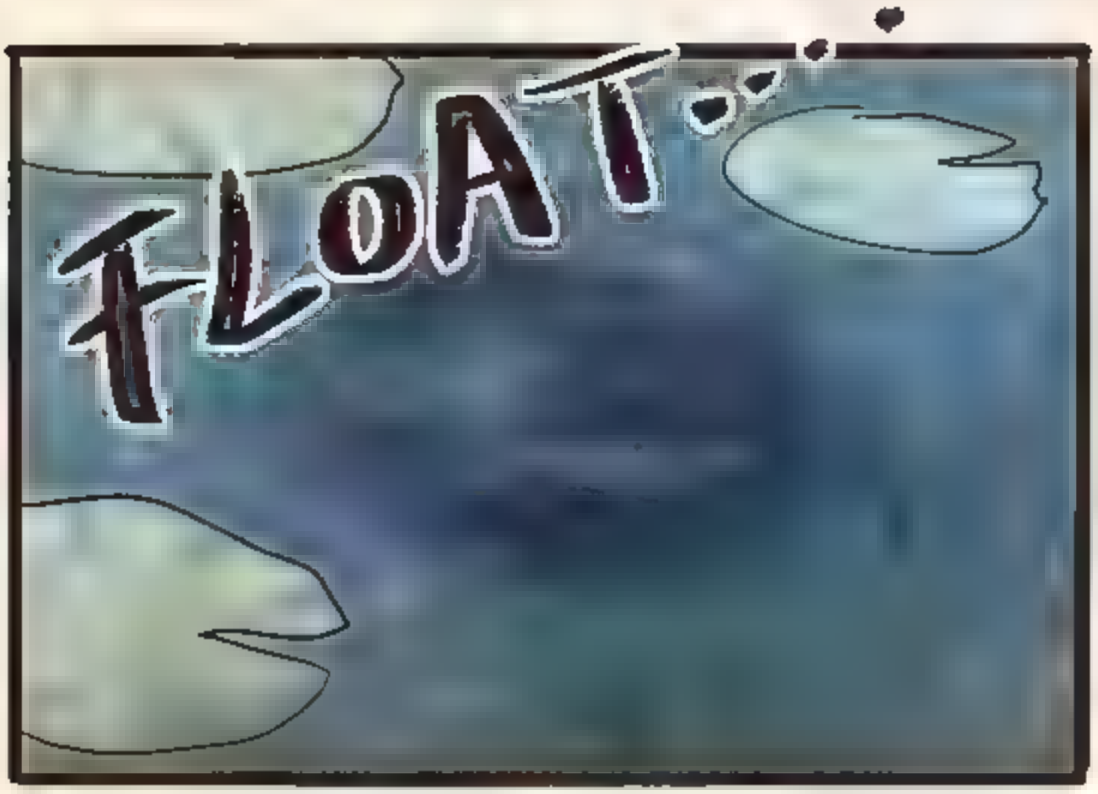

HOLD ON ANY LONGER!

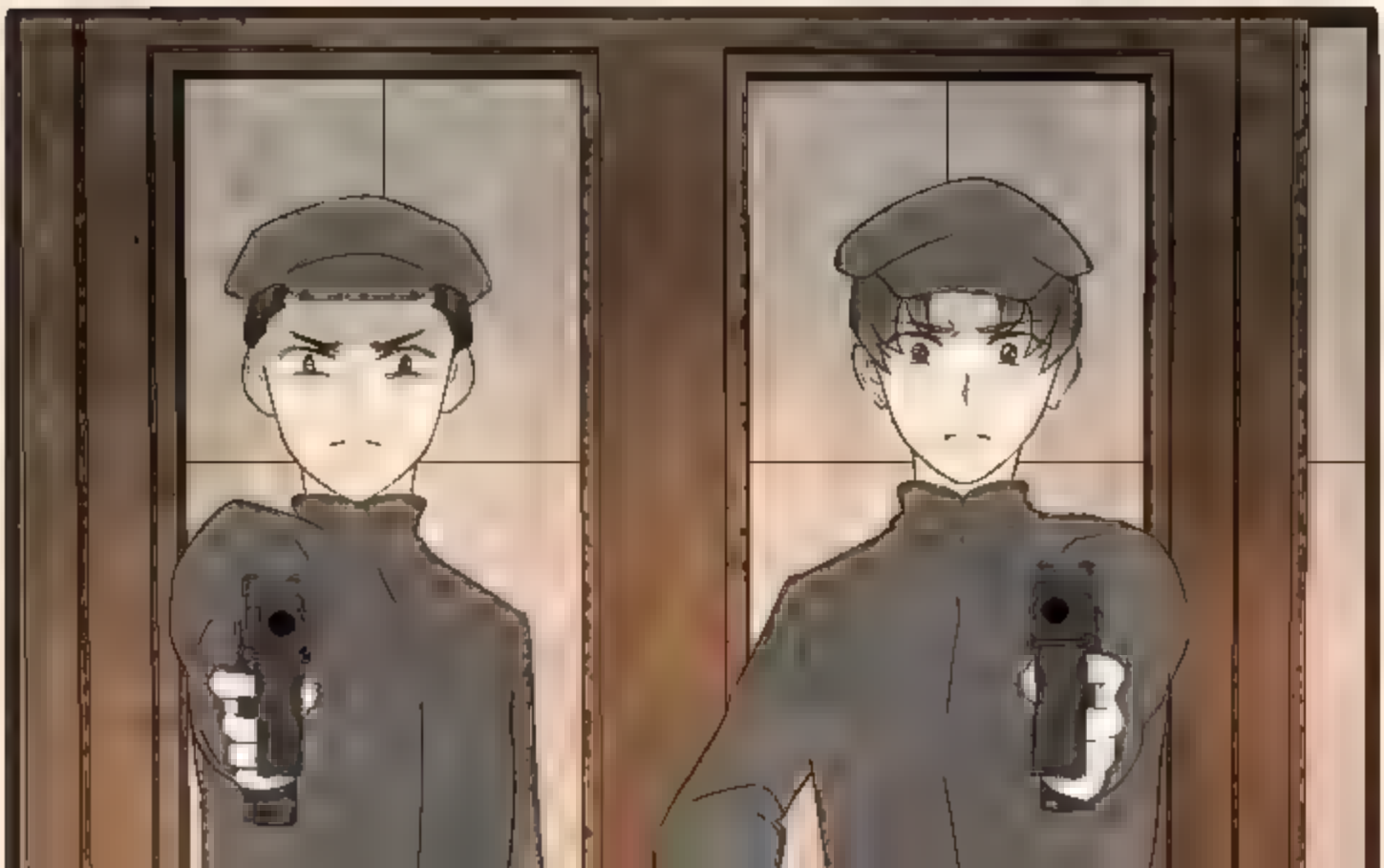


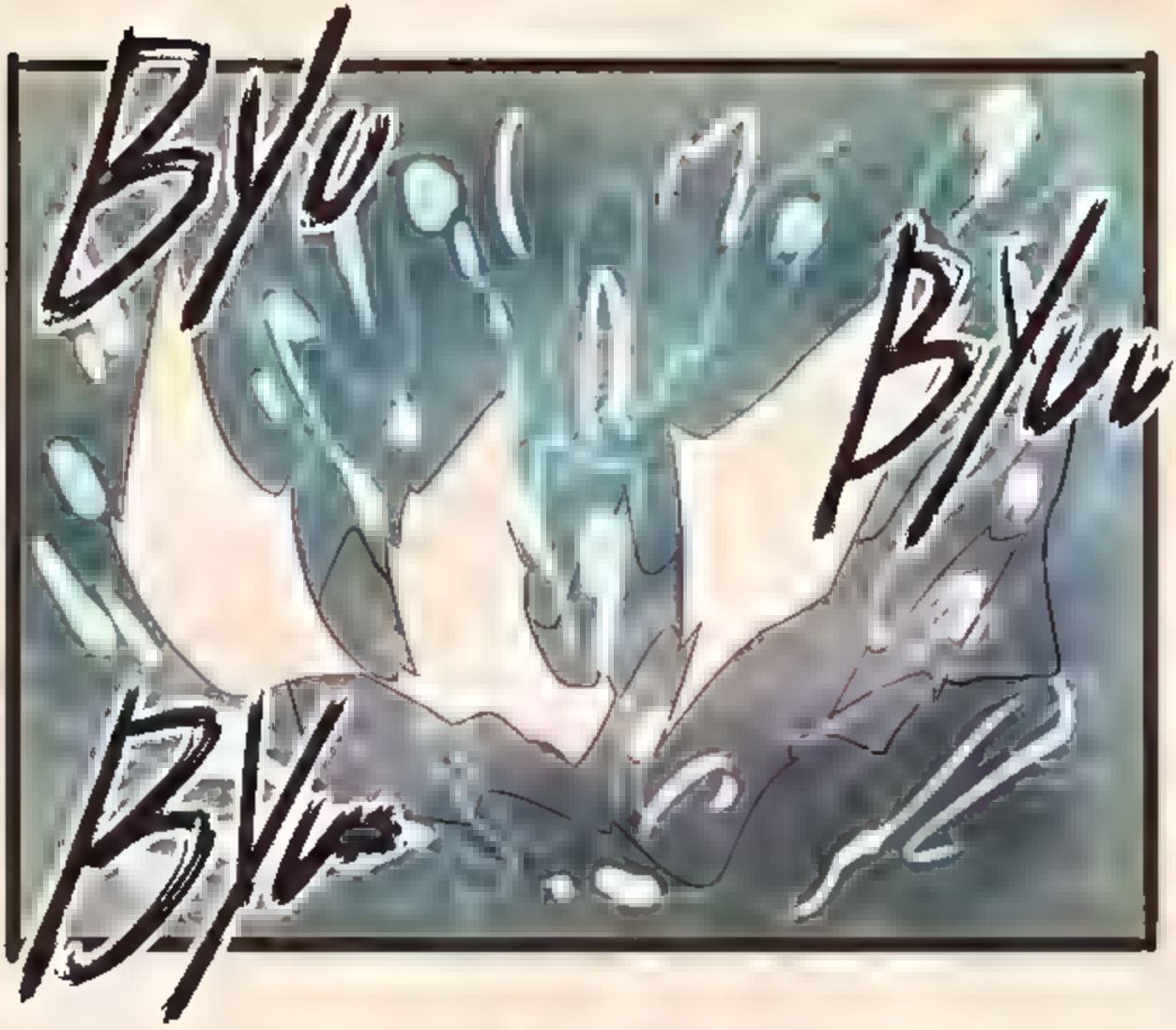
HAYATE

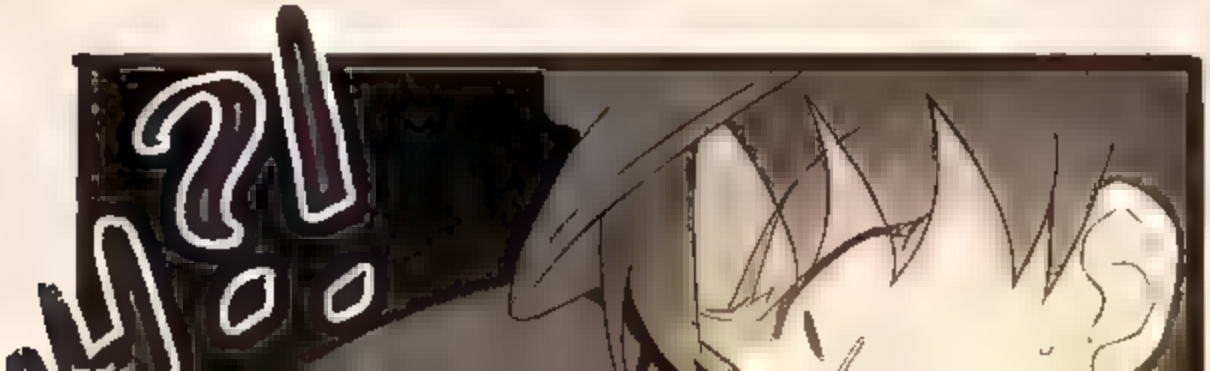
SORRY LUCIUS,
I HAVE TO DO
THIS.

YOU NEED TO STAY IN THE WATER FOR ANOTHER MINUTE!


FLOAT...



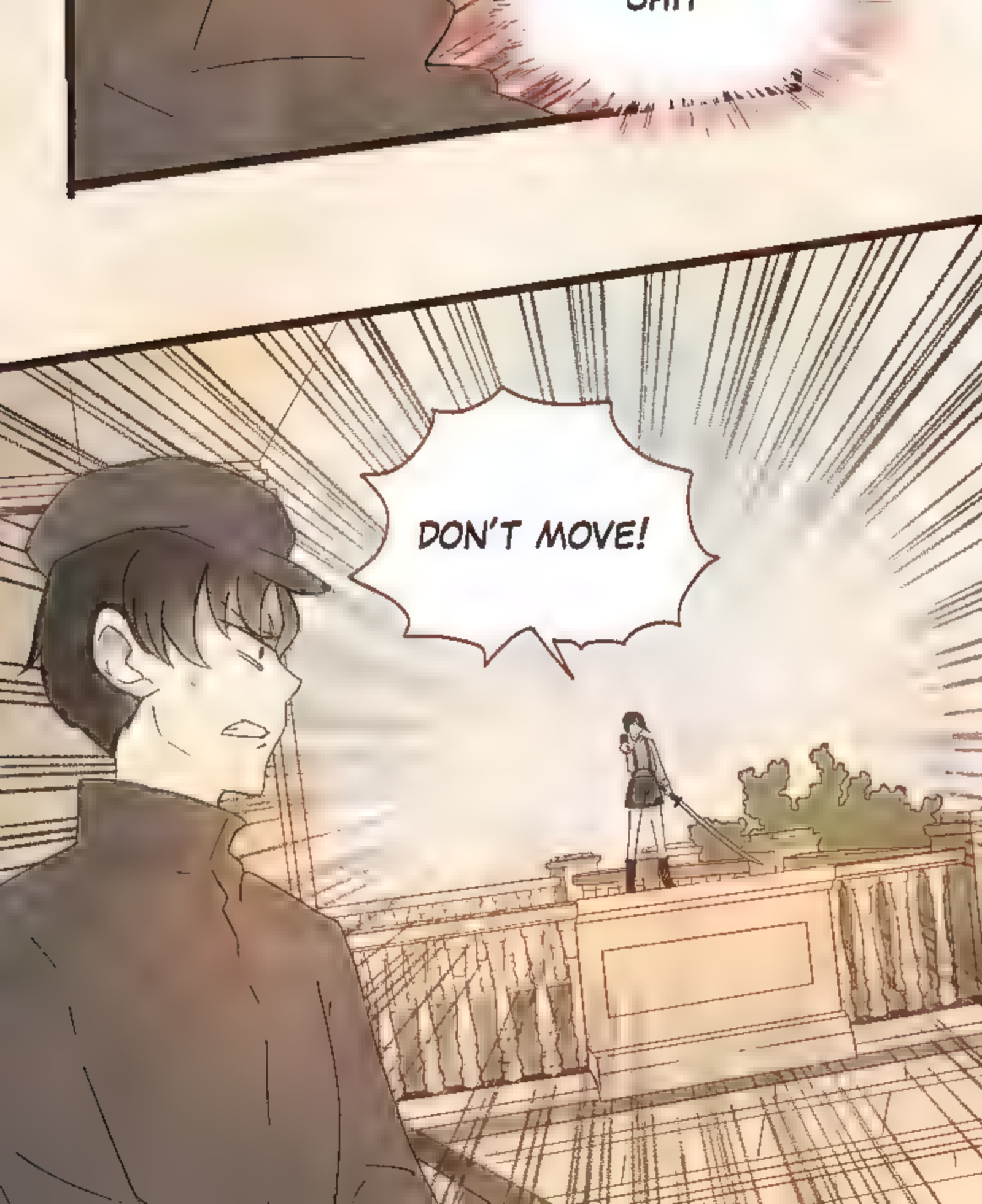

Byu
Byu
Byu


?!

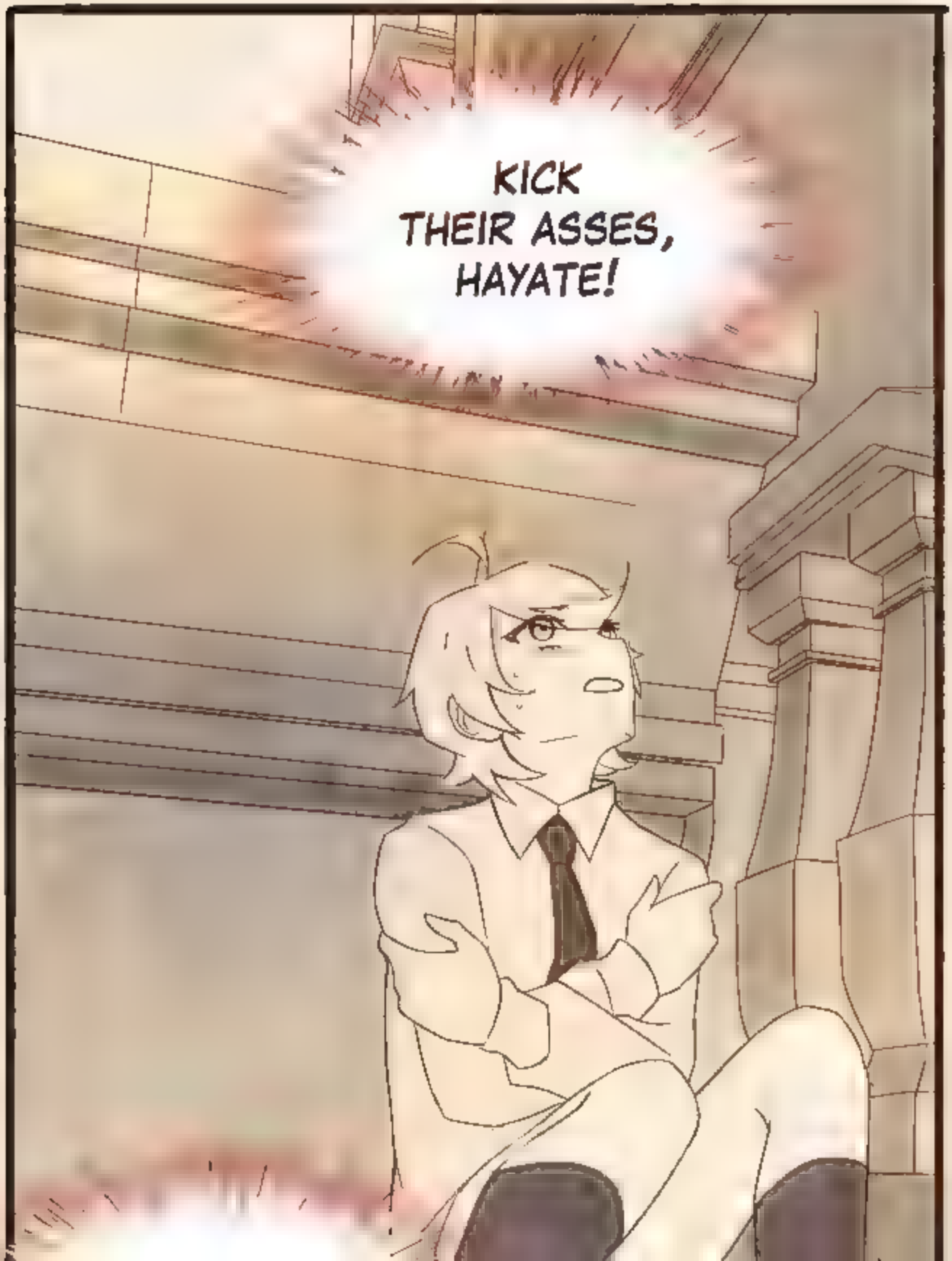
HOR

BANG

SHIT--

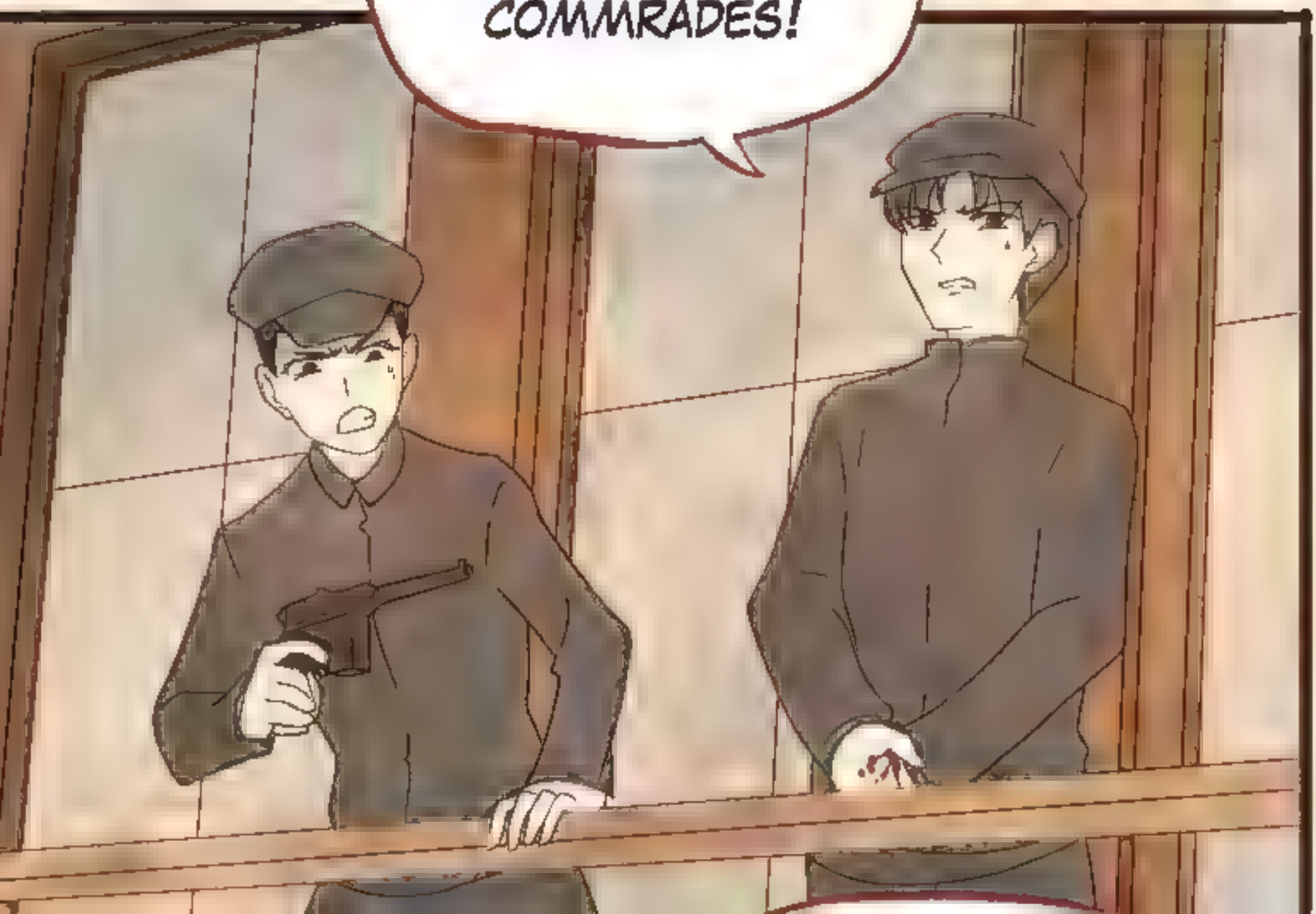

DON'T MOVE!

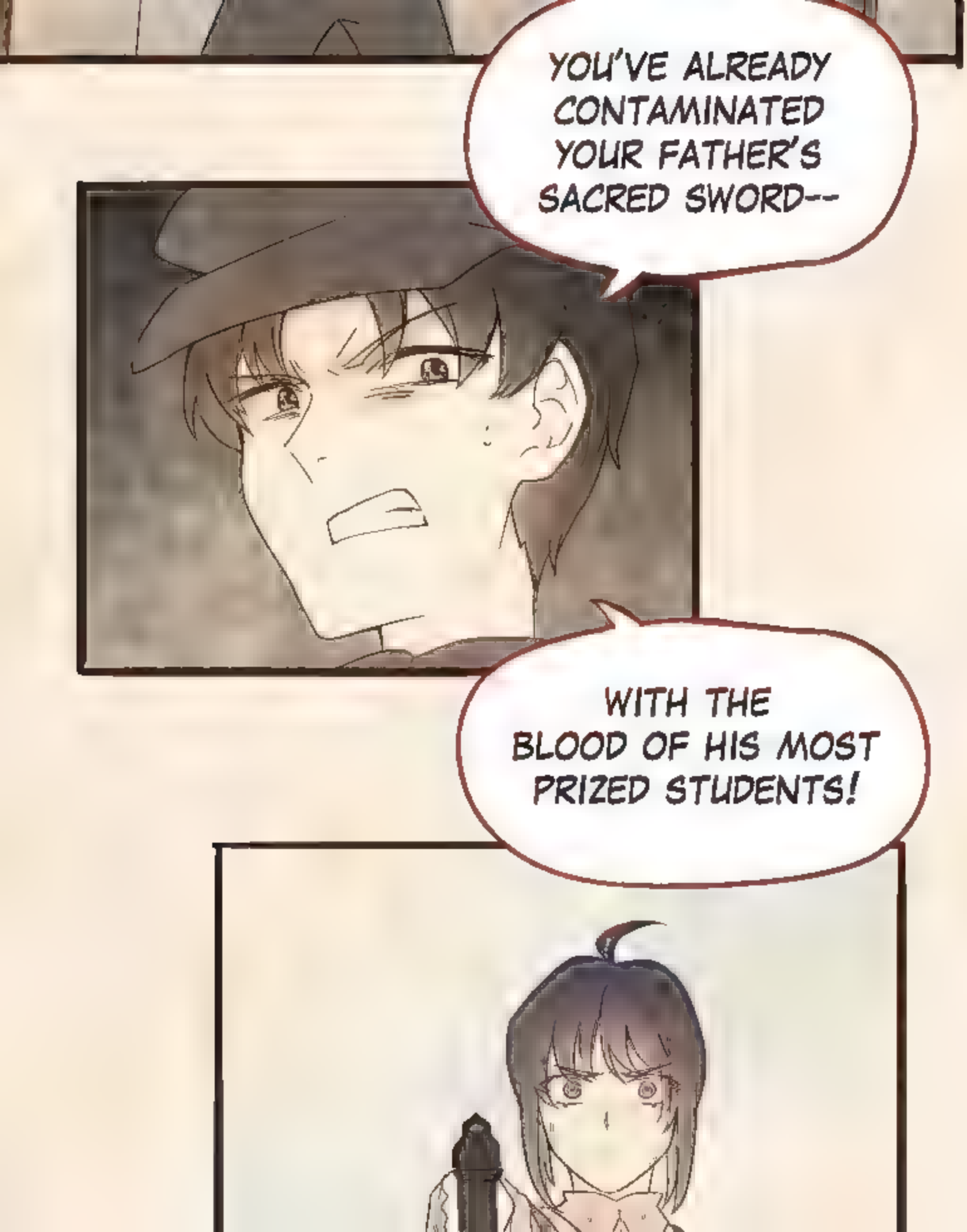
MY NEXT BULLET GOES IN YOUR SKULL!


KICK
THEIR ASSES,
HAYATE!

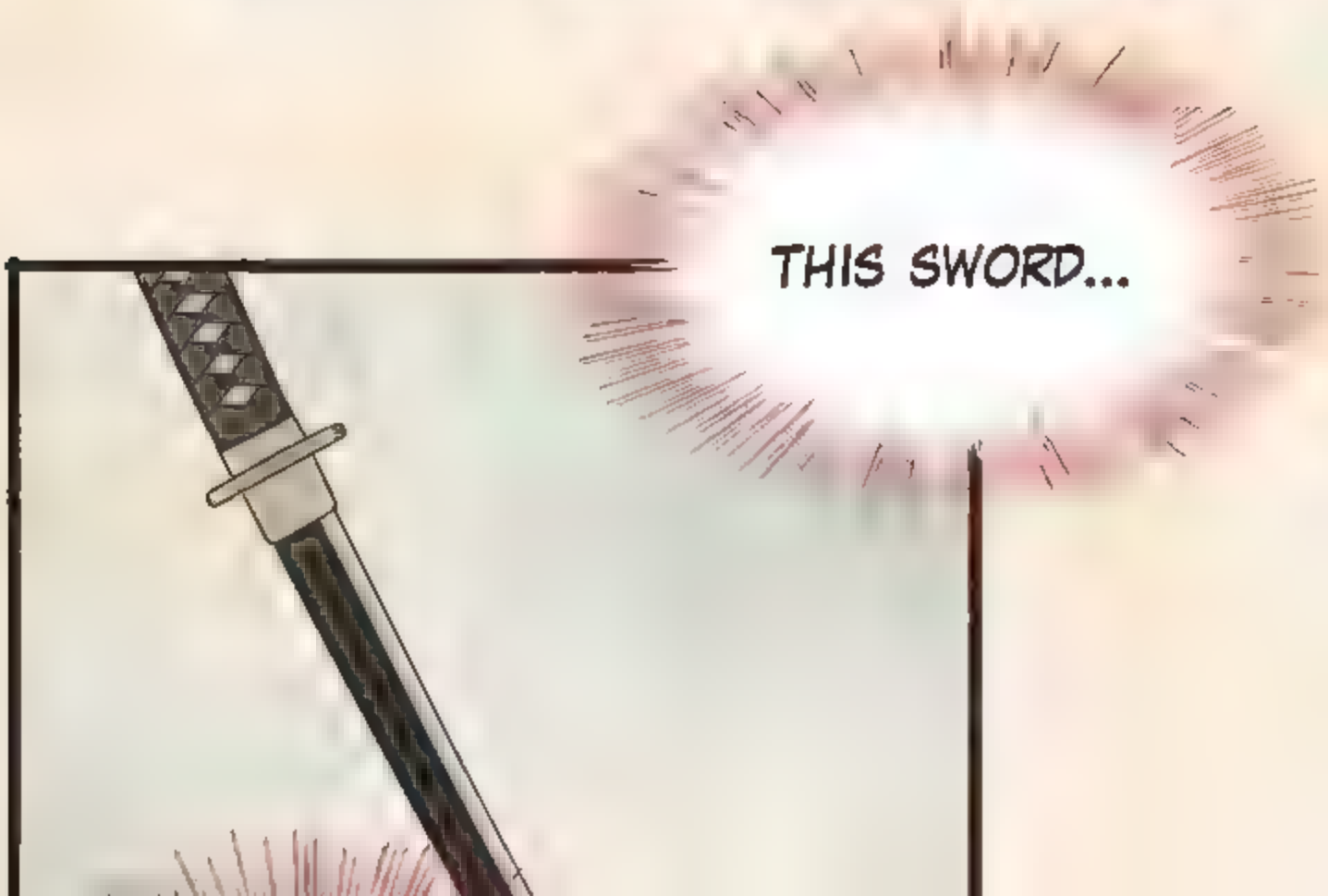
YOU'RE WAY COOLER THAN THEM!

THAT'S RIGHT, KILL ALL YOUR COMMRADES!




YOU'VE ALREADY CONTAMINATED YOUR FATHER'S SACRED SWORD--
WITH THE BLOOD OF HIS MOST PRIZED STUDENTS!

WHAT?!

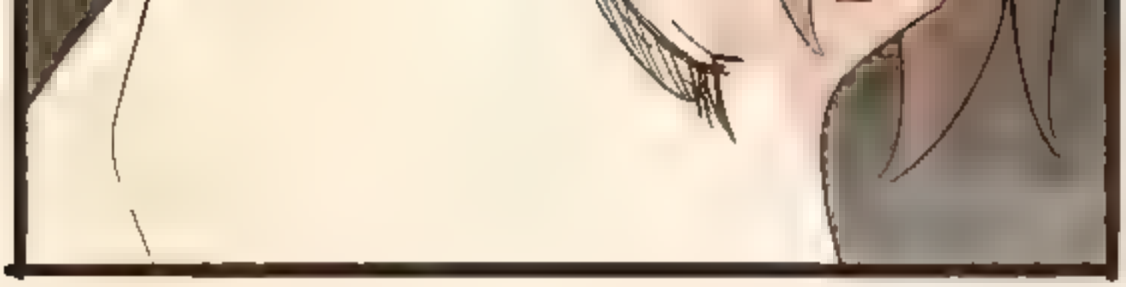

THIS SWORD...

IS THE ONE FATHER CARRIES WITH HIM ALL THE TIME?!

FATHER WOULD NEVER ALLOW HIS SWORD TO LEAVE HIS SIDE!

HOW DID IT END UP IN YOUR HANDS?!

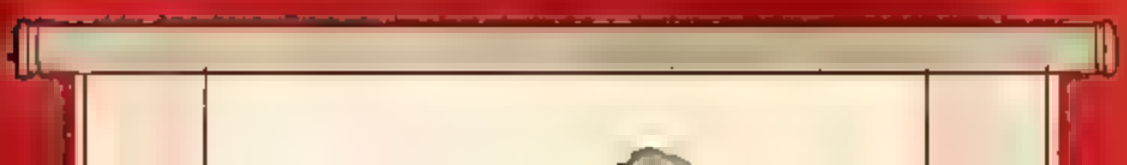
TSK, YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS TO ASK THAT OUT LOUD?



IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU DESERTED DURING THE KAMIKAZE MISSION.

OUR ENTIRE UNIT WAS EXECUTED BY CHEIF HEADQUARTERS.

AND TO COMPENSATE FOR YOUR SINS...



...COMMANDER RYUSAKI COMMITED THE HARAKIRI* SUICIDE.

M-MY FATHER...

...H-HE'S DEAD..?

COMMANDER RYUSAKI SENT US FROM CAMP JUST BEFORE HE DIED.

SO THAT WE CAN PASS HIS LAST WORDS ON TO YOU.

THE TRUTH IS WRITTEN IN THIS LETTER.

I DARE YOU TO READ IT ALL!

T-THOSE PHOTOS...

My dear son Hayate,
I am sorry that I couldn't tell you the truth about your mother and you until my very last moments.

I hope you can find it in yourself to forgive me.

Your mother's name was Yue.

We met while she was studying abroad in Japan,

and were married just three months later.

You were born
a year after that!

It was the happiest moment in my entire life.
I wish everything had stayed like that forever.
But one day your mother revealed her true identity.

Yue was never a

She was never a University student.

She was an agent of the Chinese army.

A spy.

Through me, she had access to Japan's military headquarters.

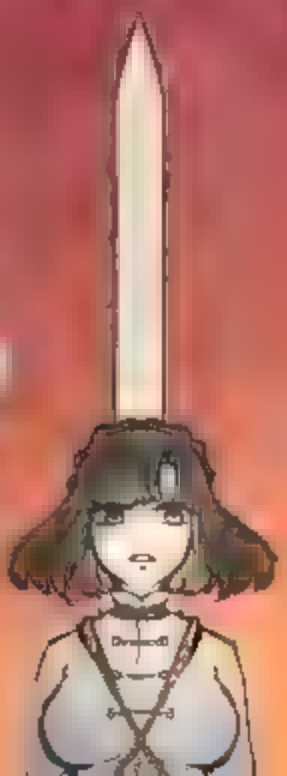
She orchestrated countless losses to try to

bring about the end of the Great Sun Empire.
She used me.
But even after I knew the truth, I still loved her deeply.
I offered to quit the army and escape together.

...but she refused

On the day she was brought to trial, she said:

"Just give up, Ryusaki."



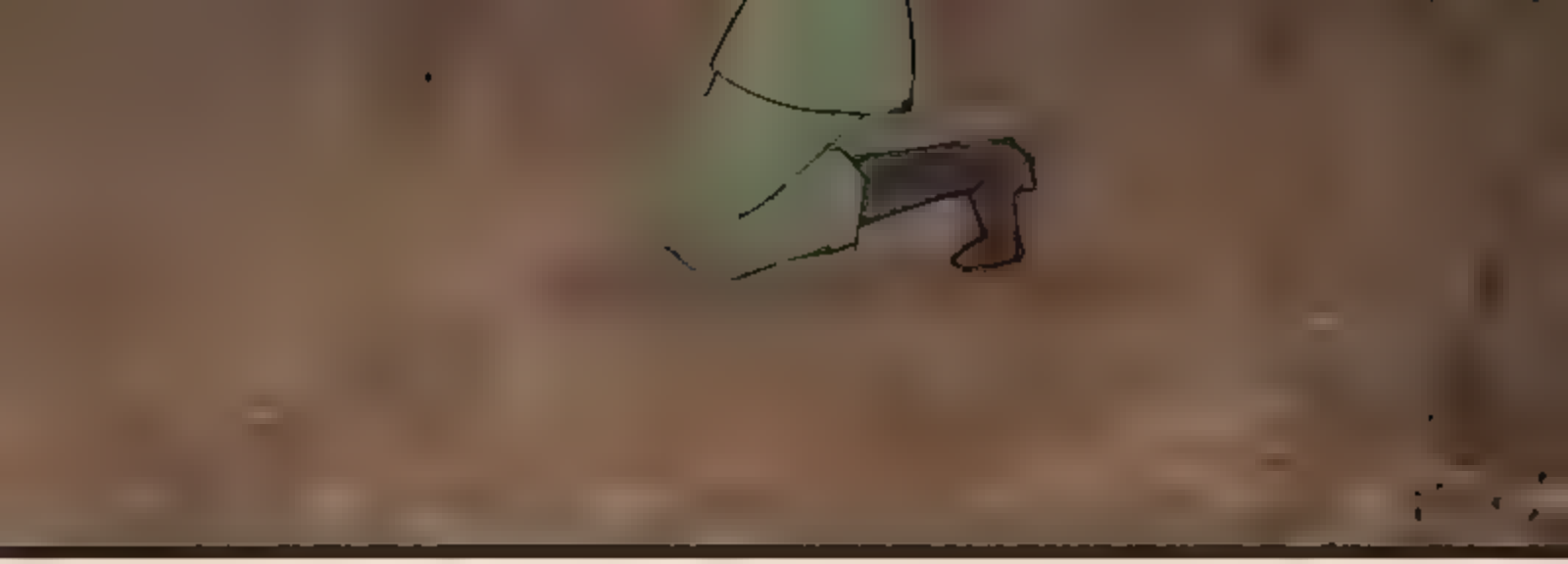
"I never loved you,"

"or your filthy offspring."

"Every second I spent with you was torture."
"A horrible sacrifice I made for the sake of my country."

"I curse you and your **vermin progeny** both--"

"--DIE AND ROT IN HELL!"



After the trial, I
was demoted.

But I was determined
that you should live.

So I brought you

here, to the small
encampment in
Shanghai.

It was the only way I
could keep you alive,
after what she did.

I had to convince the Sun Empire you were useful.
So I trained you hard, to become a powerful soldier.
I couldn't show favoritism, lest your peers report me.

So I made sure they wouldn't be jealous of your status.
All this, just to keep you by my side.
But when Headquarters announced the Kamikaze Plan, I knew I couldn't keep you safe this time.

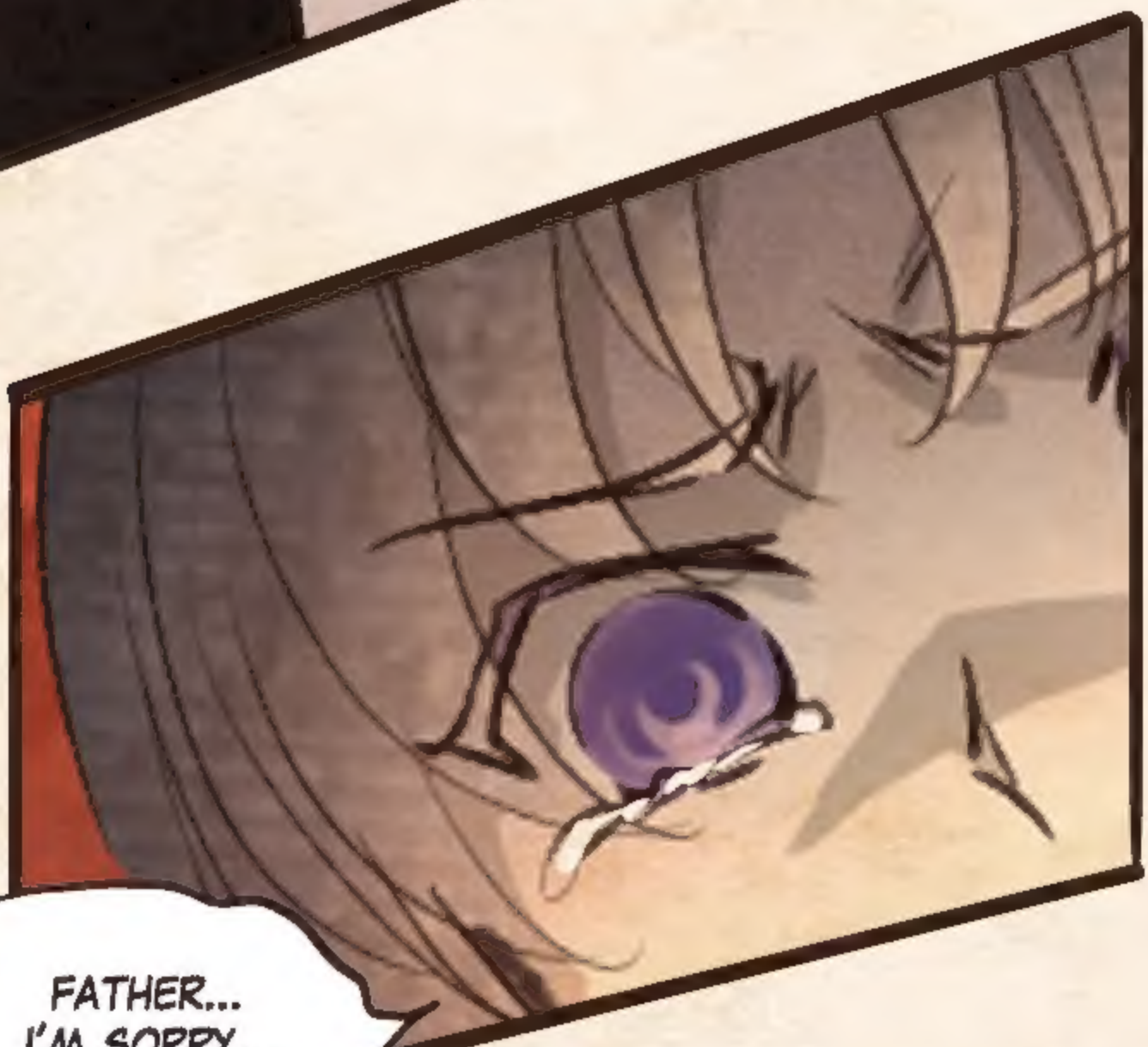
All I could do was
train you to be the

and this world,

I'd be giving you
could never grant
you during life.

You have always been
my pride and joy, Hayate
You were
the best thing I
ever did.
Even if I
could never say
it during life,

I love you.



FATHER...
I'M SORRY...

Phantom Paradise

極樂宮

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